

Iraqi leader visits N. Yemen

SANAA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein arrived Saturday for an official visit at the invitation of North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The visit marked a rare trip abroad for the Iraqi president who leaves Baghdad only occasionally. His last visit abroad was to Egypt in November. Hussein was accompanied by First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan, Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Information Minister Latif Nayef Jassem, officials said. Officials said the two presidents will hold talks on bolstering bilateral ties and also will discuss the stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks and the Middle East situation. The Iraqi president recently confirmed that North Yemeni soldiers fought alongside Iraqi troops during the Gulf war. A U.N.-sponsored ceasefire halted the Iran-Iraq war last Aug. 20. North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani was in Baghdad last week when the 3,000-strong Yemeni Brigade left for home.

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani (second from left) in a meeting attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Iryani (left).

Bush says Gorbachev letter pledges to work for peace

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush, getting an early start on his first full day in office, told reporters Saturday he had received a congratulatory letter from Mikhail Gorbachev expressing Gorbachev's desire to work for peace.

"He has contacted me through a nice, very generous letter — a letter pledging, you know, pledging to work for world peace," Bush said at a brief question-and-answer session during his first visit to the Oval Office as president.

Bush, who was sworn in Friday as U.S. leader replacing Ronald Reagan, did not say when he had received the letter from the Soviet leader.

"Clearly I will respond not only to that communication from Mr. Gorbachev but to expressions of goodwill from all around the world. It's been very heartwarming and I want to make sure we do get these responses out," he said.

With his frail, 57-year-old mother Dorothy seated beside him, Bush seemed relaxed and in very good spirits during the brief, impromptu news conference.

He revealed that a private note Reagan had left in a desk drawer for him was written on a notepad inscribed: "Don't let the turkeys get you down."

"Nobody here should take personal offense at this at all," he quipped. "This is a broad ecumenical statement... I don't know who he (Reagan) is speaking about there."

Bush held up the notepad, which was illustrated with a cartoon showing a group of turkeys trying to wrestle with an elephant — the symbol of Republican Party.

Bush began his first day in charge at the White House by taking ordinary citizens on a tour of his new official home, reflecting the concern for individuals he stressed in his inaugural address.

He also arranged a private lunch for four generations of his family including his mother, his five children and 10 grandchildren.

Those events were among the last symbolic acts of the \$25-million inaugural pageant marking the handing on of power from Reagan to his former vice-president.

On Saturday morning he was greeted by tourists on the south lawn of the White House before showing about a dozen of them around the executive mansion.

Basking in the glitter of the most expensive inauguration ever, Bush extended his celebration through the weekend but said during Friday's swearing-in

ceremony that the hard work of solving America's pressing problems must begin immediately.

The new president, a self-confessed "lousy dancer," made the rounds of 11 black-tie inaugural balls Friday night before heading home for his first night in the White House.

World leaders showered Bush with congratulations as he took office, with Gorbachev hoping he would bring peace and Pope John Paul II wishing him "an abundance of divine blessings."

The leftist Nicaraguan government extended an olive branch and Arab leaders were optimistic that Bush would move the United States away from Reagan's staunch pro-Israeli position in the Middle East.

One European newspaper hailed the return of pragmatism to the U.S. government and another "The down-to-earth Bush" over "Reagan the Romantic." But a British daily newspaper, the Financial Times, said Bush would need some of Reagan's luck.

Gorbachev told Bush he hoped his term would bring "stable and diverse development on relations between our countries," and said Moscow was ready to work in that direction, the official news agency TASS said.

Rifai, Abdul Ghani brief King on Joint Jordan-N. Yemen Higher Committee

King expresses satisfaction with Amman-Sanaa ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace Saturday North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani in the presence of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, and was briefed on the work of the Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee and its accomplishments in different fields.

King Hussein voiced satisfaction with the progress in relations between the two countries and emphasized the importance of following up matters designed to bolster bilateral cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The North Yemeni prime minister and Rifai were guests at a lunch hosted by the King. It was also attended by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, King Hussein's private advisor Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa and Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh.

The North Yemeni delegation accompanying Abdul Ghani were also present. They include the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and the ministers of economy and information.

Soon after his arrival in Amman, Abdul Ghani and the delegation called at the tomb of the late King Abdullah where they recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid wreaths.

They were accompanied on the visit by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa.

Upon his arrival, Abdul Ghani was accorded an official welcome ceremony led by Prime Minister Rifai with whom he will co-chair meetings of the Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee.

In an arrival statement, Abdul Ghani said that the meeting was bound to contribute to the development of Jordanian-North Yemeni cooperation in all fields.

The higher committee meeting follows several days of talks held here between officials from both sides who prepared for the prime ministers' discussions.

The latest meeting by these officials grouped Foreign Minister Qasem and his Yemeni counterpart Abdul Karim Al Iryani and other officials from both sides.

The meeting resulted in agreement on allowing Jordanian trucks to transport goods to North Yemen directly or to pass through its territory in transit to other states without restrictions.

The two sides also agreed to allow Jordanian and North Yemeni trade centres in Sanaa and Amman to sell national products worth \$10 million annually and to allow each other the chance to organize trade fairs during 1989 to allow for further sales of national products.

Arafat urges U.N. intervention

NICOSIA (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has urged the United Nations and other organizations to intervene immediately to halt Israeli crimes in the occupied territories, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) radio station said on Saturday. Voice of Palestine Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted Arafat as saying that the Israeli army had stepped up its "iron-fist" policy, launching a fierce new campaign which had led to dozens of Palestinian casualties in recent days. The PLO chairman said that Palestinians' homes had been blown up and destroyed and schools had been closed. Curfews had continued and starvation imposed on towns, villages and camps, the Algiers-based radio station quoted him as saying. "The brutal actions announced by the Zionist leadership have reached the level of collective punishment and mass brutal action," Arafat said. "Faced by these appalling crimes and oppressive terrorist practices against the sons of our people, I call on the United Nations, the U.N. Security Council and all humanitarian and political organizations in the world to move immediately to protect our people and to put an end to these Zionist crimes against the sons of the Palestinian people," Arafat said.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday receives North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani upon the latter's arrival here to attend meetings of the Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee (Petra photo).

Joint committee meets

The Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee met at the Prime Ministry under the co-chairmanship of Rifai and Abdul Ghani Saturday evening. Petra said the committee reached agreement that Jordan would continue to provide North Yemen with Jordanian doctors and that both sides will hold trade fairs in each other's capital and will be allowed to sell \$5 million worth of goods exempt from customs duties to the public. Jordan will also establish a trade centre in Sanaa to promote Jordanian products in North Yemen.

The committee meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Touqan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister

and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Information Hani Al Khasawneh, Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Salam Kanaan, Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, Minister of Trade and Industry Hamdi Tabbaa and senior officials as well as the Jordanian ambassador in Sanaa.

On the North Yemeni side, the meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Iryani, Minister of Economy and Trade Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Abdul Hamid, the minister of information and the North Yemeni ambassador to Jordan.

The committee resumes the meeting Sunday.

PLO formally refutes U.S. threat charges

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) made its first formal response Friday to U.S. allegations that Chairman Yasser Arafat threatened to kill a West Bank mayor.

The official PLO spokesman said the campaign against Arafat was a flagrant interference in internal Palestinian affairs and designed to cover repressive Israeli measures against the intifada in the occupied territories.

The U.S. State Department said Wednesday it had a tape recording on which Arafat said, "Whoever thinks of stopping the intifada before it achieves its goals, I will give him 10 bullets in the chest."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman interpreted this as a clear threat against Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who had proposed a U.N.-sponsored truce in the occupied territories.

The PLO spokesman, quoted by the PLO news agency WAFA, said: "Mr. Elias Freij is a Palestinian citizen whose rights the PLO and not the United States will protect. The statements by U.S. officials therefore amount to flagrant interference in Palestinian internal affairs, especially as Mr. Elias Freij has already denied being subject to any threat."

He added, "The U.S. officials propagating such information are helping to encourage the Israeli occupation forces in their crimes against our people and are thus trying to cover them."

"While deploring the conduct of this campaign, the PLO hopes that President George Bush, who has just been inaugurated, will push forward the process of peace in the region and oppose the continued occupation of our territory."

PLO officials have said the dispute arose from a misunderstanding of remarks Arafat made in a speech in Riyadh on New Year's day.

Arafat, who had earlier in the evening been criticised for being too moderate, actually said his own life would be in danger if he tried to call off the intifada, they said.

A Palestinian leader in remarks published Saturday called on the United States to put pressure on Israel to accept an international conference to make peace in the Middle East.

"The U.S. opened the dialogue after it was convinced of the PLO's peaceful intentions... it should now exert pressure on Israel to show more flexibility and accept an international conference," PLO Executive Committee member Abdullah Hourani told Al Bayan newspaper in Tunis.

He also said PLO welcomed comments by the new U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on American dialogue with the group.

"The PLO welcomes Baker's comments that the dialogue is not an end in itself but that it should contribute to a just settlement in the Middle East," Hourani was quoted as saying by Al Bayan.

Violence mars elections seen crucial for Gandhi

MADRAS, India (R) — Scattered violence marred polling Saturday in two of three Indian states voting for assemblies in the last major test of public opinion before general elections due by the end of the year.

In the southern state of Tamil Nadu, the most critical for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress (I) party, a short section of railway track was blown up, police said.

They said a Congress worker was stabbed by members of a low caste group agitating for better jobs and a voting booth was blasted apart by beggars.

In northeastern Nagaland, where Congress is favoured to pull off a narrow win, polling was suspended in one of the 60 constituencies following clashes between Congress and Nagaland People's Council supporters that injured at least eight people.

Poling was peaceful in Mizoram, the other northeastern state electing a new assembly, although some groups of Christians refused to vote.

"We are communicating with God. We are not interested in worldly affairs like elections," said Lalrempuia, aged 14, who leads a sect of about 800 people.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), a regional party trying to forge unity among Gandhi's opponents nationally, was favoured to win most of the 232 Tamil Nadu seats at stake.

The election, in a state where the ruling Congress Party has not held sole power for more than 20 years, was widely seen as a major test of Gandhi's ability to draw votes.

Gandhi has invested a considerable amount of personal prestige in Tamil Nadu.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Troubled Boeing 757 lands in London

LONDON (R) — A British Airways Boeing 757 jet landed safely at London's Heathrow airport Saturday with one engine shut down in the latest of several incidents connected with Boeing planes this month. The pilot reported problems in mid-air and fire engines and ambulances rushed to the runway as the jet approached. It landed safely and no one was hurt, airport officials said. Engineers were examining the plane, which was on a shuttle flight from Edinburgh with 82 passengers aboard. A British Airways spokeswoman said there had not been a fire or explosion in the engine.

Botha to leave hospital but needs rest

CAPE TOWN (AP) — President P.W. Botha will probably be discharged from a hospital next week, but will need six weeks' rest to recover from his stroke, a cabinet minister said Saturday. Health Minister Willie van Niekerk, a physician, said in a statement that Botha appeared to have made a remarkably speedy recovery from a stroke he suffered at his home Wednesday.

OAU chairman to visit Algeria

ALGERES (R) — Moussa Traore, president of Mali and current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), is to pay a two-day state visit to Algeria at the end of January, the AP news agency reported Saturday. The timing of the Jan. 28-30 visit suggested a summit of Maghreb leaders has been put back to February. Media reports have said the leaders of Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya would meet in Marrakesh Jan. 30. The OAU and the United Nations have jointly proposed a plan to silence the guns in the Western Sahara desert where Polisario guerrillas have fought Morocco for 13 years for independence for the former Spanish colony.

W. German diplomats leave Kabul

BONN (R) — West Germany has evacuated all its remaining diplomats from Kabul amid fears of a security breakdown following the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Juergen Chrobog said, however, that Bonn was retaining diplomatic relations with Kabul and the West German embassy would remain open (British warping, page 2). Chrobog said the embassy's communications and other technical functions would be kept running by local personnel.

Dali given little chance of survival

FIGUERAS, Spain (R) — Spanish painter Salvador Dali, 84, has little chance of surviving his latest bout of heart and lung illness, his personal doctor said Saturday. Dr. Juan Garcia Samuiguel said after a visit that the surrealist artist was in critical condition. "He has a one-in-a-thousand chance of surviving," Garcia said. Dr. Carlos Pousada, chief doctor at the small hospital in Dali's hometown of Figueras, said the next 32 hours would be decisive.

Dumas arrives in Israel

TEL-AVIV (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Israel Saturday for talks with Israeli leaders on prospects for Middle East peace. Israeli officials said the two-day visit was likely to be mainly a fact-finding mission.

SWAPO appeals to U.N.

LUSAKA (R) — The Namibian independence movement SWAPO Saturday appealed to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council not to seek a cut in the peacekeeping force which will supervise Namibia's independence.

The information secretary of the South West Africa People's Organisation, Hidipo Hamutenya, urged the five — the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China — not to seek a reduction in the U.N. Transition Assistance Force, originally set at 7,500 strong under Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibian independence, approved in 1978.

"We consider it a demonstration of bad faith on the part of those members of the U.N. Security Council like the U.S., the U.K. and France... to renege on things they have already agreed," Hamutenya told a graduation ceremony for Namibian students in the Zambian capital.

SWAPO has fought for more than two decades to end South Africa's occupation of Namibia, which under a U.N. transition plan coming into force April 1 is due to reach independence next November.

The plan will be implemented following peace accords signed by Angola, South Africa and Cuba in New York in December.

Meanwhile, the military commander of U.N. force for Namibia offered to resign over proposals to cut the force, the Angolan news agency Angop reported Saturday.

Quoting a London-based spokesman for the SWAPO, the Angop report said U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar rejected the resignation Friday of India's General Prem Chand.

Moves to cut the peacekeeping unit are opposed by many non-aligned nations, including several black African countries.



A Palestinian family in the occupied West Bank town of Qalqilya stands in the ruins of their demolished home. Demolition of Palestinian homes is increasingly resorted to by the Israeli army in its bid to quell the 13-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Casualties and arrests mount in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops killed a Palestinian watchman and a teenager blew himself up in mysterious circumstances amid protests in the occupied West Bank Saturday over tougher moves to quell the Palestinian uprising.

Palestinian sources said soldiers shot Yasser Hamad, 28, by mistake after he fired in the air to disperse Palestinians stoning the offices of the Israeli-appointed town council in Yatta.

An official Israeli source said the guard had fired at soldiers with an Israeli-made Uzi sub-machine gun.

"Troops were patrolling in the village overnight when shots were fired at them. The troops returned fire and a local man was killed. Details are still being checked," the source said.

Ghazi Iskaffi, 19, was killed in an explosion at the nearby town of Hebron, apparently while preparing a bomb. Palestinian sources said Israeli sources said the circumstances were unclear but explosives experts were examining the scene.

A petrol bomb was hurled at an army patrol in Ramallah and hundreds staged demonstrations. Troops arrested at least 100 Palestinians and clamped a curfew on the town centre, sources said.

Soldiers in Nablus shot and wounded a 14-year-old girl during a stone-throwing demonstration there, hospital sources said.

Underground leaders of the 13-month-old uprising has called

for increased confrontations with troops Saturday in protest at tougher measures to quash the uprising.

The army has relaxed rules to let troops fire plastic rounds at Palestinians throwing stones, burning tyres, blocking roads or fleeing from soldiers.

The plastic bullets, a supposedly non-lethal alternative to regular ammunition, have killed or maimed scores of protesters. West Bank hospitals said.

At least 374 Palestinians have died in the uprising.

In the West Bank village of Bir Zeit, an alleged Palestinian collaborator seized two members of a group of Arabs who attacked his home overnight, villagers said.

Mahmoud Al Yusuf and his sons beat one and stabbed the other. He kept both tied up on the roof of his house until midday Saturday, when he let them be taken to hospital, villagers said.

Troops declared both Bir Zeit and Yatta closed military zones, off-limits to journalists.

Palestinian sources said demonstrators clashed with troops in Bethlehem. 'Ain Sultan Palestinian refugee camp near Jericho and the Gaza Strip's Jabalya refugee camp, where soldiers shot and wounded a 60-year-old man.

Troops and police with tracker dogs scoured fields and olive groves around the West Bank town of Jenin after three Palestinians escaped from a prison some 18 kilometres to the north-west.

Police said the men were await-

ing trial on charges related to the uprising but would give no further details.

In the village of Sakhnin, police arrested 11 activists Friday night after a meeting in support of the Palestinian uprising, Israel Radio reported Saturday.

Some 700 people attended the rally and when they began to sing the Palestinian anthem police ordered them to disperse and arrested those who refused, the radio said.

The 11 were all members of the "Sons of the Village" Palestinian nationalist movement.

Police in neighbouring Shaab arrested 19 Gazans who had spent the night in the village mosque without a permit, the radio added.

Peres wants uprising to end

Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres Saturday welcomed Sweden's efforts as a go-between in forging Middle East peace but ruled out any talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until the Palestinian uprising stopped.

"We find it impossible to talk to people involved in bombs and terror," Peres said after meeting Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson in the West German capital.

Peres told reporters after the hour-long meeting that Israel wanted to negotiate directly with the Palestinian people.

After meeting Carlsson, Peres made clear he regarded the PLO as responsible for the uprising.

Tias says Israel blew up Pan Am jet over Scotland

KUWAIT (R) — Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tias said in remarks published Saturday that Israel blew up a Pan Am jet over Scotland last month by tricking an American soldier into carrying explosives aboard.

Tias told Kuwait's Al Qabas daily that agents of Israel's secret service Mossad offered an American soldier stationed in West Germany \$300,000 to smuggle a suitcase that supposedly carried diamonds into the United States.

The soldier did not know the suitcase was packed with explosives, Tias said. The airliner crashed shortly after takeoff Dec. 21 from London's Heathrow airport on a flight from Frankfurt to New York with the loss of 270 lives.

British investigators have established a bomb caused the crash but have not identified who was responsible.

Tias said the baggage of American soldiers at Frankfurt airport was not subject to normal security checks. He did not reveal the source of his information but said it was "available to more than one Western intelligence agency."

Tias said a group of rabbis due to have travelled on the plane cancelled their reservations at the last minute, presumably tipped off by Mossad.

"In light of information that Syria has, the explosion was to have taken place over the Atlantic, but for certain reasons and because it was late coming in from Heathrow it blew over Scotland," he said. The material used in the explosives was made only in Czechoslovakia and Israel, he added.

He did not say why Israel would have blown up the plane. The incident closely followed the start of talks between Washington and the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel reacted angrily to Egyptian newspaper allegations earlier this month that it might have been behind the bombing, saying the suggestions could poison relations with Egypt.

Britain's Sunday Express newspaper reported Jan. 15 that U.S. government investigators were looking into the theory that the bomb went aboard the plane with a soldier involved in a diamond-smuggling ring.

The Kuwaiti newspaper quoted Tias as saying in an interview that "the one who carried the explosives aboard the plane in Frankfurt was one of the American soldiers serving at a base in West Germany and he did it unknowingly."

"An agent of Israeli intelligence, Mossad, handed him the bomb-laden bag to carry, claiming it was diamonds worth



Mustafa Tias

\$500,000 that needed to be smuggled into the United States," said Tias.

"The Israeli agent gave the American soldier a telephone number to contact once he reached New York to deliver the bag," he added.

The Pan Am Flight 103 was on a flight from Frankfurt to New York when it exploded over the Scottish town of Lockerbie. Investigators have not revealed any concrete leads as to who was responsible.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Shevardnadze to visit Turkey soon

ANKARA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Turkey soon, probably in late February or early March, as part of a Middle East tour, a senior Soviet official said Friday. The official told Reuters no definite programme had been arranged but that other possible destinations included Iran, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt. Shevardnadze was due to visit NATO-member Turkey early last year but no date was fixed due to his busy schedule which included East-West arms talks and domestic political obligations.

Toxic chemicals washed up on Cypriot beach

NICOSIA (AP) — The government Friday banned fishing in waters off the Akrotiri peninsula in southern Cyprus after plastic bags containing a toxic chemical were washed up on the beach. British military authorities from the Akrotiri airbase cordoned off beaches within the base perimeter where the bags were found, a base official said. A government statement said fishing in the area was banned "until investigations are completed to determine the extent of pollution following the discovery of bags containing dangerous agricultural chemicals." A police source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said more than 100 plastic bags measuring 15 by 22 centimetres and stamped with a skull-and-crossbones poison warning had been washed up on Akrotiri beaches since Monday. The source said they were labelled in Dutch as containing magnesium phosphate manufactured by the West German Bayer company — a powerful rodent poison that is deadly if ingested by humans. "It is clear the bags were dumped into the sea from some passing ship in order to dispose of the toxic substance," said Andreas Diamantopoulos, director of the government fisheries department.

Moroccan newspaper reappears after 8 years

RABAT (R) — A leftwing Moroccan newspaper reappeared Friday after a break of almost eight years. The French-language Liberation — mouthpiece of the main opposition Socialist Union of People's Forces (SUFF) — was banned after riots in 1981. SUFF's trade union wing — the Confederation Democratique du Travail (CDT) — was held responsible for bloody riots in Casablanca in 1981 over food price hikes.

Musavi returns home from foreign trip

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi returned Friday from official visits to Italy and Poland with a set of trade accords to help rebuild the country's ravaged economy after the Gulf war. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Musavi as saying on arrival in Tehran that his five-day tour had proved "successful." Musavi's trip to Italy, his first to a Western European country, underscored Iran's determination to set politics aside in rebuilding industry following the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. As a member of Iran's hardline political faction, Musavi in the past had opposed any opening to the West. In Rome, he agreed that Iran would pay more than \$450 million owed to Italian companies involved in construction of the Bandar Abbas port, a major Iranian port in the Gulf. More than \$250 million of the amount will be paid in cash, and the remainder in crude oil exports to Italy.

Greece seeks extradition of Crete banker

BOSTON (R) — Greece Friday sent to the federal prosecutor here documents that could lead to the extradition of former Bank of Crete president Georgios Koskotas, the prosecutor's office here said. A date for an extradition hearing will be set after U.S. magistrate Joyce Alexander examines the documents, which detail Greece's case against Koskotas, the judge's clerk said. Prosecutor Frank McNamara said the Greek government sought Koskotas's extradition on numerous charges including embezzlement and forgery. Koskotas was arrested last November after arriving at a suburban Boston airport on a plane from Brazil. He is wanted in Greece on charges that he defrauded the Bank of Crete of \$200 million when he was its president.

Greek Socialists loose support

ATHENS (R) — Greece's ruling Socialist Party PASOK would suffer a clear defeat if elections were held now, an opinion poll showed Friday. PASOK would take the votes of only 24.9 per cent of those polled in the Athens-Piraeus area, where 40 per cent of the country's population lives, compared with 44.8 per cent in the 1985 general election, the private polling company Dimel said. The poll showed the main opposition New Democracy Party would become the largest single political force with 38.7 per cent of the vote, compared to 37.9 per cent in 1985. The poll said that if the Greek Communist Party (KKE) and other left-wing groups joined forces for the election due in June they would push PASOK into third place. In such a case the poll said New Democracy would take 37.4 per cent of the vote, a united left-wing grouping 26 per cent and PASOK 21.7 per cent. KKE has agreed in principle to fight the election with the Greek left party and various smaller left-wing factions.

15 extremists held in Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — Police have arrested 15 Muslim extremists suspected of involvement in a fire outside a Protestant church in a village north of Assiut, security sources said Saturday. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the incident occurred Thursday at Bani Mohammadiat, about 70 kilometres from the southern provincial capital of Assiut. The church itself was not damaged, but fire destroyed a quantity of wood valued at \$450 in the vicinity. The church has been undergoing renovation and piles of wooden planks were stacked nearby for use in scaffolding and repairs, the informants said. They said the detentions were based on witness accounts by villagers who said they saw the extremists pouring kerosene on the wood stock and lighting it.

Minesweepers to clear Bahrain channel

BAHRAIN (R) — Three British minesweepers arrived in Bahrain Saturday to begin clearing a 26-mile shipping channel leading to the island's Mina Sulman port. A British embassy spokesman said the minesweepers Cottlemore, Berkely and Chiddingfold and their support ship Herald would begin the job — their last operation in the Gulf Monday. A Bahraini fisherman was killed and five were hurt Tuesday when their dhow was split in two by an explosion which officials believe was caused by a mine.

Little headway in efforts to settle Amal-Hizbollah feud

BEIRUT (R) — Efforts to end a violent feud between rival militias in Lebanon remained deadlocked Saturday, three weeks after the battles began.

The latest round in a year-long struggle between Amal and Hizbollah has killed at least 142 people, wounded 150 and made thousands of poor southern villagers homeless.

But political sources said senior clerics acting as negotiators had failed to settle the dispute between the two sides, struggling for control over Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites.

They said both sides had agreed to hold a meeting in Damascus next week with Syrian and Iranian officials. But Amal's leader Nabih Berri Friday ruled out any meeting unless Hizbollah handed over the killers of three Amal officials to Syrian troops.

"We are ready to go to Syria and to meet with Hizbollah if the group agrees to hand over the killers of Daoud Daoud, Mahmoud Fakih and Hassan Sabaiti," Berri told reporters. Amal says Hizbollah gunned down the three in west Beirut last Sept. 22, a charge Hizbollah has repeatedly denied.

Berri said he was ready to send food and ammunition to Hizbollah militants entrenched in the southern villages of 'Ain Buswar, Jabal Safi and Lowaizah so they could fight Israel.

He said he was even ready to help in transferring Hizbollah members from Beirut to South Lebanon. "I am ready to give all the guarantees but first Hizbollah should hand over the killers."

The militias have fought this month in west Beirut, the city's southern suburbs and the Iqlim Al Tufah region of South Lebanon. Hizbollah fighters use the region as a base for attacks against Israel's self-styled "security zone."

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, Hizbollah's spiritual mentor, said during Friday prayers that both groups should accept a ceasefire then meet to discuss peace.

Hizbollah wants to share control over South Lebanon with Amal and to have a major say in representing the Shi'ite community. Amal insists on being the sole representative of the Shi'ites and wants Hizbollah to pull out of two southern villages which overlook Amal-held settlements.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will go to Damascus Sunday as part of efforts to mediate an end to the militia feud, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, did not say who Velayati would meet but said the visit had been expected for some time.

Sudan says rebels downed plane

KHARTOUM (R) — Rebels in southern Sudan shot down a military aircraft with a ground-to-air missile Saturday, killing its pilot, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said.

It quoted a military statement saying the aircraft was on a combat mission against Sudanese rebels besieging the town of Nasir in the southern Upper Nile region near the border with Ethiopia.

SUNA said the aircraft exploded in the air when it was hit by a Soviet-made SAM-7 missile. It identified the pilot as Colonel Mukhtar Mohammedin, on his ninth combat mission in two days.

The agency did not identify the type of aircraft involved but the clandestine radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army

(SPLA) said earlier that it was a Soviet-made MiG-23 fighter. The Sudanese air force has MiG-17, MiG-19 and MiG-21 jets but according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London does not fly any MiG-23s.

The SPLA said last month it had captured the pilot of a Libyan MiG-23 which crashed after a bombing raid on rebel positions. The military statement added that troops killed 24 rebels Friday when an SPLA force attempted to overrun Nasir.

The town was surrounded by an estimated 4,000 guerrillas earlier in the week, according to the military, and 570 rebels had been killed since it came under siege nearly five months ago.

Egypt condemns Israel over handling of uprising

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt condemned Israel Saturday for its handling of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and urged moderation so progress could be made towards peace.

"Egypt renews its condemnation of Israel's oppressive practices against Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands," a spokesman for Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said.

"Egypt also calls on Israel to stop such practices in order to create a favourable atmosphere that would help push the peace process in the region," he said.

The statement followed talks

minister said after talks with Nabil Al Arabi, Egypt's chief negotiator in talks with Israel over the disputed 700-metre beach.

"Then discussions can take place over access and compensation for the other facilities," Abdul Meguid said.

International arbitrators ordered Israel last year to return Tabat to Egypt. But the Israelis are demanding free access to the beach and a share in ownership and management of the luxury hotel and holiday village there.

between Abdul Meguid and Zohdi Al Kodra, a representative of the Fateh faction of the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who delivered a message from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The spokesman said the message dealt with the "grave situation in the occupied areas as a result of oppressive measures by the occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens."

Abdul Meguid told reporters that Egypt insisted on complete sovereignty over the Tabat border strip.

"Israel should withdraw from the region the way it has withdrawn from other areas," the



Esmat Abdul Meguid

Britain asks its nationals, others to leave Afghanistan

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The British embassy in Kabul has issued a final warning to foreigners to leave Afghanistan in the face of a worsening security situation in the country, an embassy spokesman said Saturday.

The embassy has sent letters to more than 60 Britons and other foreigners it represents, saying: "We must advise you that you should leave Afghanistan without delay while normal flights are still available."

Acting Charge d'Affaires Clovis Meath-Baker, contacted by phone from New Delhi, said the wording was standard for situations like Afghanistan where war or civil strife might force the embassy to close.

The letter, sent to 33 Britons and 34 Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, Finns, Danes, and Irish represented by Britain, said:

"I must make it clear that this is a final warning and that there is no question of any subsequent evacuation being arranged by the British government."

Most of the foreigners are either medical missionaries, Red Cross workers or United Nations officials. Apart from a few Red Cross workers in the western city Herat, all are based in Kabul.

The Afghan capital is suffering severe food and fuel shortages as Soviet troops make their final withdrawal from the country — due to be completed by Feb. 15.

Rebels and severe winter weather on the road connecting the Afghan capital with the Soviet Union have badly hit the number of supply convoys reaching Kabul, say diplomats.

A Western diplomat, who asked not to be named, said: "It is clear to the most uniformed observer that a violent change of government is likely in the next

few months. Any new government is likely to be very unstable."

Rebel rift

A spokesman for Iran-based Afghan rebel leaders complained Friday they were not consulted on political moves being prepared by their colleagues in Pakistan, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The leader of the Pakistan-based alliance, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, announced in Tehran Tuesday that he planned to form a Shura council and then a provisional cabinet.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mohammad Karim Khalili, spokesman of the Iran-based Afghan Mujahedeen coalition as saying on state-run television, "the decision to create such a council has been made without coordination with the coalition, and independent Afghan groups."

The council, a form of parliament, is being set up in hopes that the Afghan government will collapse after Soviet troops complete their withdrawal.

It is meant to include representatives of all the rebel groups who fought against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Mujahedeen are split into two coalitions, the Iran-based Shi'ite alliance, and the larger Sunni coalition based in Pakistan.

The minority Shi'ite alliance, fearing that it might lack clout in a Shura council, wants a cabinet to be formed before agreeing on the council.

IRNA said the Shi'ite coalition apparently is demanding double the number of council seats it was offered by the Pakistan-based alliance.



An Afghan refugee stands at the entrance of his mud and canvas house as his children peer out in the massive Mundat refugee camp near the Afghan border. After 10 years of exile, three million Afghan refugees are waiting to return to their homes.

Mowlavi Nasrollah Mansour, head of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, was quoted as saying on the programme that "an air of hegemony can be felt in the functions of the Pakistan-based alliance."

But Mojaddidi, speaking in the Pakistan capital of Islamabad Friday, rejected Khalili's view that the council would be impractical, the agency said.

"It is practical that we can bring together all these people and that the council can and should reach some decisions," it quoted Mojaddidi as quoted by IRNA as saying.



An Afghan refugee stands at the entrance of his mud and canvas house as his children peer out in the massive Mundat refugee camp near the Afghan border. After 10 years of exile, three million Afghan refugees are waiting to return to their homes.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:10 Football match
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:25 Local series
17:05 Programme review
19:40 News in Arabic
20:00 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Variety programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:40 La Baby Sitter
18:50 L'Ecole des Fous
19:00 News in French
19:15 A documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic

PRAYER TIMES

20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 The Silk Road
22:00 News in English
22:20 The Equaliser

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637875.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 625543.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

WEATHER

The country will remain under the effect of the cold masses. So it will continue cloudy, cold and rainy, while snowfall is expected on areas 900 metres above sea level. The effect of this cold masses will decrease by noon. Winds will be westerly to northwesterly moderate.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

ARMAN: Dr. Munther Al Gurnani 776258
Dr. Issa Abu Haidar 667123
Dr. Saleman Al Khayyat 791880
Dr. Bassem Al Qasabani 644024
First pharmacy 651912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336

NIGHT DUTY

ARMAN: Dr. Munther Al Gurnani 776258
Dr. Issa Abu Haidar 667123
Dr. Saleman Al Khayyat 791880
Dr. Bassem Al Qasabani 644024
First pharmacy 651912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AI Asoma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
AI Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shouab pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630461
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62380003
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65630091
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630461
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62380003
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65630091
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2
Khaldit Maternity, J. Ann 642816
Akilah Maternity, J. Ann 64241/2

HOSPITALS

Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
ZARQA: Dr. Abdul Karim Al Khasshash 983024
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

MARKET PRICES

Uppertower price in \$/kg per kg

MARKET PRICES

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664717/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
AI-Musabir Hospital 672270
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646
Iraqi, Al-Mulajir 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafah 771111/26
Army, Marwa 891611/15
Queen Abla Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983332
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Im Saia Hospital (09)988732
IBRD: Princess Basma Hospital (02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)772775
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Uppertower price in \$/kg per kg

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ART EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali Saturday opened an exhibition of pastel art by Turkish artist Melissa Arder in Amman. The ten-day exhibition includes 24 pieces of art depicting natural scenes from Jordan including scenes from Wadi Rum, the Dead Sea, Petra, and the Jordan Valley. (Petra)

LAWZI RECEIVES PAKISTANI CABLE: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Saturday received a cable of thanks from Pakistani Parliament Speaker Miraj Khalid in reply to the congratulatory cable Lawzi had sent on Khalid's election as parliament speaker. In his cable, Khalid highly valued the role the Jordanian Parliament is playing in the service of the Jordanian people's aspirations. (Petra)

MINISTERS MEET ITALIAN ENVOY: Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin and Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani met separately in Amman Saturday with Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Curtin. They discussed with him Jordanian-Italian relations. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: A number of students and employees in Irbid Governorate have Saturday enrolled in new People's Army courses. The participants will attend lectures in military sciences, civil defence, and the use of weapons. (Petra)

7 ARAB WORKS WIN PRIZES: The Arab Thought Forum Saturday announced in Amman that seven Arab creative works in the field of natural and applied sciences won the prizes of Sheikh Abdullah Al Mubarak Al Sabbah for the year 1988. Walid Mostafa Ibrahim Al Shuykhi from Jordan won one of the prizes for his research entitled "Protection of Maritime Environment." Three other people from Egypt, Kuwait, and Syria won prizes for their works in biochemistry, maritime studies, and physics. (Petra)

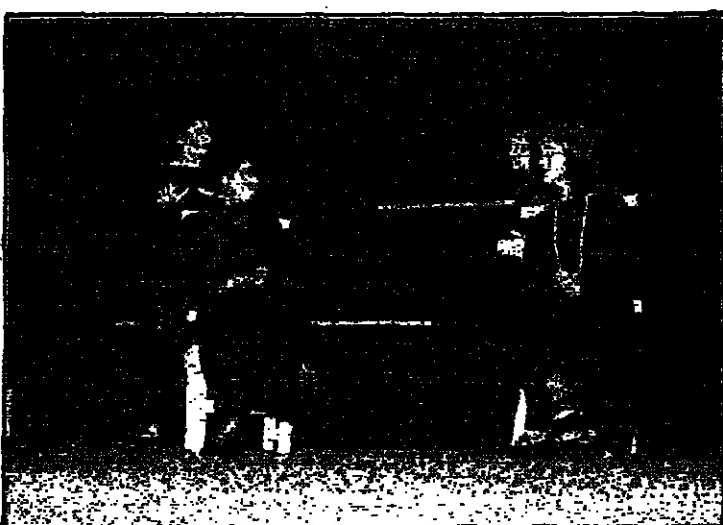
ARBOR DAY: Some 7,000 saplings were Saturday planted in Yarmouk region in Amman in observation of Arbor Day which has been celebrated throughout Jordan. More than 5,000 saplings were also planted in Ras Al Ain in Amman. (Petra)

MADABA SERVICE: The Madaba Municipal Council held a meeting Saturday and discussed means to improve the standard of services, particularly with regard to maintaining roads. Madaba Mayor Ahmad Qatish noted that it was decided to purchase vehicles at JD 5,000 to maintain roads. (Petra)

ABU QURA VISITS SOUTH GHOR: Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Dr. Ahmad Abu Qura Saturday visited JNRCS branch in South Ghor and was briefed on activities and services the branch provides to needy families in the region. (Petra)

ELECTIONS IN SALT ON JAN. 30: Municipal elections will be held in Salt on Jan. 30, and so far 22 candidates announced they were running for the new 11-member council. A spokesman for Salt Municipality said that the candidates were grouped in two separate blocs except for seven who were running as independent candidates representing different clans. (Petra)

COURSE ON FINANCIAL ANALYSIS: A two-week training course on financial analysis Saturday began at the Jordan Institute of Management. The course is designed to demonstrate the importance of financial analysis in making decisions, and to familiarise the participants in methods of financial analysis. Eighteen people from various industrial and financial institutions in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Oman are enrolled in this course. (Petra)



A scene from the play 'Shades of Eve'

'Shades of Eve' will be performed again Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Riding on a wave of success after three full-house performances this week, the organisers of the play "Shades of Eve" have announced another run of the play at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Studio Theatre Sunday at 8 p.m. "Shades of Eve" is a collection of adaptations from well-known playwrights as well as works of some members of the team — actresses Haya Hussein and Sana Atiyeh and director Sawwan Darwaza. As the name suggests, it portrays some of the whims and fancies of women as well as throws an insight into the mysterious working of the female mind, whether in high society life or in the confines of home.

If audience reaction is any indication, then the ovation that the play and its team received at every performance shows that it was very well received despite the unconventional method of presentation.

The most outstanding feature was the level to which all players rose in rendering convincing portrayals of their respective roles — whether as scheming women trying to outwit each other in pursuit of none-too-noble objectives, or as maids deriving satisfaction from playing the lady of the house. Everyone of the four actresses — Hussein, Atiyeh, Sima Qubein and Suchinta Vijesooriya — lived up to the characters on stage, gaining respective edges in different scenarios and roles.

Simple stage techniques and effective use of lighting against the backdrop of haunting music add to the charm of the 80-minute play.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

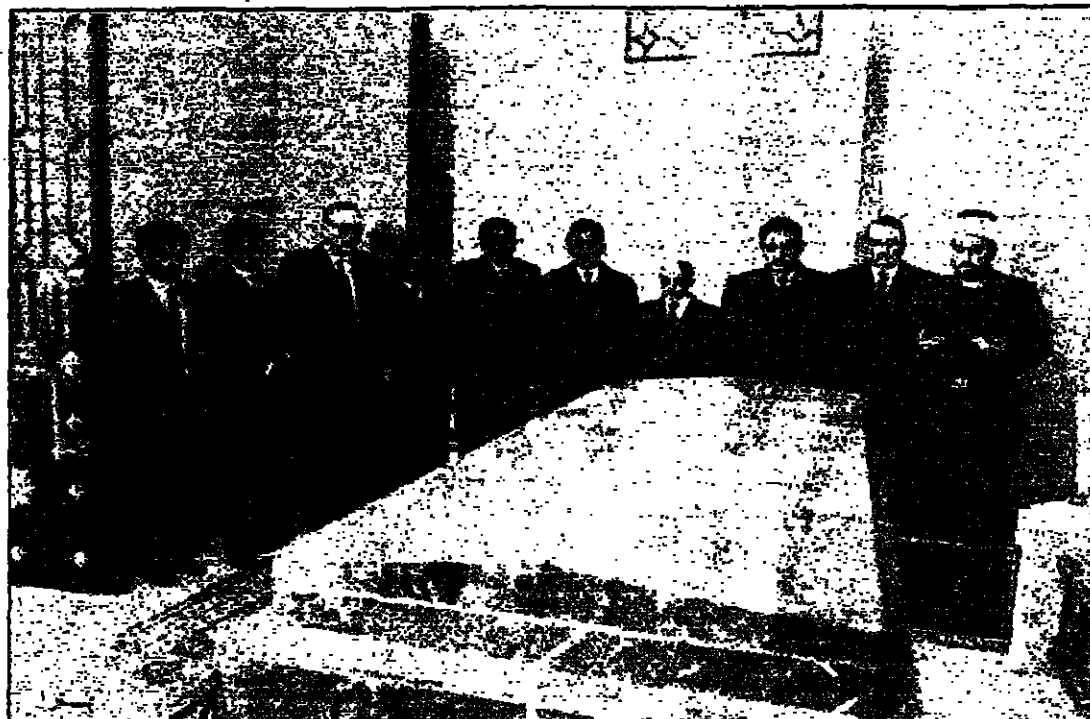
- * An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- * The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madameh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of decorations and Arabic orthography on mirrors by Ghada Al Khatib at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammed at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of photographic works by Wols (Otto Wolfgang Schulz) at the Goethe Institute — 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * A lecture by Najat Al Qassab on the Arab family at Abdul Hamid Shouman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * A feature film entitled "A Soldier's Story" at the American Centre — 7:30 p.m.
- * A German video entitled "Deutschland Spiegel" (The German Scene) at the Yarmouk University — 6:30 p.m.
- * A German film entitled "Deutschland Spiegel" (In Arabic) at the Yarmouk University — 5:00 p.m.



N. Yemeni team visits King Abdullah's tomb

North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and his accompanying delegation Saturday visit the tomb of the late King Abdullah where they recited verses of the Holy Koran. Also present is Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply

Hamdi Tabban. (below) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, his North Yemeni counterpart Abdul Karim Al Iryani and their accompanying delegation discuss cooperation (Petra photos)



NMI has relieved ministry of heavy responsibilities — Malhas

AMMAN (J.T.) — The establishment of the National Medical Institution (NMI) in Jordan has relieved the Ministry of Health of its previous and heavy responsibilities and paved the way for its return to its original mission of promoting primary health care and preventing the spread of disease, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas said Saturday.

The NMI was established as a result of the introduction of a new medical and health system in Jordan and should be regarded as the proper institution that can promote health services in Jordanian hospitals, the minister said in an interview published in Al Dustour daily newspaper.

The Ministry of Health now operates 492 health centres that provide treatment and other medication to 99 per cent of the public, complementing the NMI's role and relieving the pressure on hospitals.

The Ministry of Health's responsibilities include monitoring the various health situation in the country, and dealing with infectious diseases such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) of which Jordan now has 18 cases and malaria of which 300

to 400 cases are being discovered annually, due to the greater number of non-Jordanians coming to work in the country, and bilharzia which affects people living near water reservoirs such as the one behind the King Talal Dam, the minister noted.

He said that the ministry is providing treatment to such cases free of charge in a bid to prevent the spread of the diseases. The ministry estimated that 20 per cent of Egyptians living in Jordan suffer from bilharzia.

The Ministry of Health, Malhas said, has another important task; namely, to recruit and provide nurses for the health centres and hospitals.

The ministry established two nursing colleges over the past four years and a group of 160 nurses will graduate in the coming month to add to the present number which is indeed not sufficient, Malhas noted.

He said the Health Ministry hopes that in the coming five years the country will have sufficient number of nurses.

Malhas said the Ministry of Health had worked out a comprehensive health scheme with the help of specialists from the Un-



Zuhair Malhas

ited States and the United Kingdom, but could not implement the project due to economic reasons.

The ministry is now contemplating uniting the military and civilian health schemes as a first step to implement the project, the minister pointed out. "As a next step the private sector will be requested to join the scheme so that all public sectors will be covered."

Annual conference on computers opens with 152 participants

AMMAN (J.T.) — An annual conference on computers was opened at the Amman Plaza Hotel Saturday, with the participation of 152 delegates from Jordan, the Arab countries, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland and Australia.

Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Adnan Badran deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in opening the two-day meeting, which was sponsored by "Sakhr" Computers.

A spokesman at the hotel said that Sakhr Computers was to present to the conference an "Arabic computer" — Arabic-English and Arabic-French — which has been streamlined with IBM and the MS-DOS operating system with hardware and application software.

Modern technology has become one of the main motivators for a basic requirement of development in the present age, Badran said in his speech at the opening session.

He said that computers are contributing a great deal towards the economic, social, financial and natural resources develop-

ment. "The HCST in Jordan has embarked on long term programmes to transfer and absorb modern technology for the advancement of the nation."

He said that the council calls for continued support for the private industrial and economic institutions that help the country to transfer modern technology and contribute to the overall development.

In a statement published Saturday the director of the Department of Statistics, Abdul Hadi Al Alawin, said that Jordan has more than 2,700 computers owned by the private sector and used in financial, accounting, statistics, commercial, research and other fields.

Alawin said at least 1,500 people in Jordan are being employed as programmers, analysts, engineers, operators and others.

Alawin said that the computer is being used by his department for information and data covering all aspects of life in Jordan ranging from agriculture, industry and trade to social development and population.

"At present, the department is taking measures to set up a statistical data bank and is working on this project in close cooperation



Abdul Hadi Al Alawin

with the Ministry of Planning, and the Royal Scientific Society, Alawin said.

During 1989, the department of statistics plans to conduct a survey instead of conducting a general census, Alawin said. This will cover homes, population, fertility, health, family, unemployment and other areas such as trade, agriculture, exports, customs and investments in the course of preparations for the national data bank.

PNC speaker urges Arabs to press for end to Israeli atrocities

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Speaker of Palestine National Council (PNC) Saturday urged Arab parliamentarians to press for an end to harsh Israeli treatment of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In messages sent out to Arab parliaments, Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh called on parliament speakers to work at all levels and with all their powers to expose to the world Israel's atrocities and to bring to the attention of the world public the continuous suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, so as to bring pressure on Israel to change its present policies against the Palestinian people.

In his messages Sayeh reviewed Israel's violations of Palestinian human rights, acts of repression and detention, the closure of schools and other institutions and the desecration of Christian and

Islamic holy places in the occupied territories.

The messages were sent out in the wake of Friday's announcement in Israel that the troops were to fire plastic bullets at Palestinians throwing stones, burning tyres and blocking roads or fleeing the scene of trouble.

In a further move to stifle the uprising, Israel also ordered all schools in the West Bank closed indefinitely.

Reports said at least 37 Palestinians were wounded in West Bank clashes Thursday, and 14 protesters have been killed by Israeli gunfire in the past 10 days.



Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh

101 teachers to graduate from course on theatre in education

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 101 elementary school teachers and teachers-in-training, who have completed training course in the use of drama to enhance the teaching process, will receive their diplomas from Her Majesty Queen Noor at a ceremony to be held on Jan. 24.

The training courses were conducted by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) "theatre in education" programme, in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Higher Educa-

The "theatre-in-education" project was launched in 1987 to expand children's learning opportunities through the creative medium of drama, and to promote the dramatic arts throughout Jordan.

The project combines classroom and stage techniques with the natural play instinct of the young, to promote self-awareness, confidence, learning ability and creative expression.

Teachers from private and public schools and community colleges are taught the basic con-

cepts of education through drama and the techniques of children's plays and workshop production.

The graduation ceremony to be held at the Princess Alia Secondary School for Girls in Amman will be attended by Minister of Education Thougan Hindawi and Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad, NHF Director General In'am Al Mufti and other officials.

Queen Noor will watch a science lesson given by a teacher who had received one of the training courses.

Jordanian doctor discovers effective treatment for leprosy

MADRID (Petra) — Jordanian physician Azmi Mohammad Moustafa has succeeded in discovering a new effective treatment for leprosy.

Moustafa, who lives in Madrid, discovered this new treatment while successfully treating patients suffering from psoriasis. He based his researches on a new theory which states that leprosy is similar to other diseases caused

by disturbances in immunity, and that it is caused by a virus that infects people who are susceptible to disease by heredity.

There are chances that this new discovery could pave the way for finding a new medicine for the treatment of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

This assumption is based on a research Texas University is cur-

rently undertaking, which proves that there is a direct and strong relationship between the two viruses causing AIDS and leprosy.

A number of international organisations and researchers in the AIDS disease have contacted Dr. Moustafa to get information on his discovery hoping that this would help find effective treatment for AIDS.

Training course opens in Aqaba on ways to develop coastal areas

AQABA (Petra, J.T.) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) Saturday opened a two-week training course on means of developing coastal regions and protecting their environment.

ARA President Bassam Qaqish opened the course which is being attended by 20 participants by underlining the importance of holding the course in Aqaba which, he said, was undergoing a continuous process of development.

The port city, which has a shoreline of 27 kilometres, is being developed as a regional centre for land and sea transport, and one where industry and tourism are flourishing rapidly, Qaqish noted in a speech at the opening session.

The course is being held, he said, to help direct attention to the need to avoid any negative consequences of development and to enhance efforts towards safeguarding the environment.

ARA is sponsoring the training course in cooperation with the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Studies (IFIAS) and a number of institutes in the Netherlands and the United States.

Taking part in the course are representatives of ARA, the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Jordan Ports Corporation, the Royal Scientific Society, the Ministry of Planning, the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company and the Royal Yachting Club in Aqaba.

The training course came three months after a regional meeting on the development of the Red

Sea and the Gulf of Aden was concluded in Amman.

The meeting, which was dedicated to the protection of the two regions from pollution, defined the share of every country bordering on the Red Sea to help

protect the environment and curb pollution.

The meeting urged countries in the two regions to intensify efforts to control all activities dealing with the dumping of suspect poisonous waste into the sea.

Teams work hard to open Jordan Valley culverts

SOUTH SHUNEH (J.T.) — Teams were reported working hard Saturday to open culverts in some parts of the Jordan Valley region. The culverts were blocked by large amounts of earth and rocks carried by the streams of water formed as a result of heavy rains that fell in the region over the past 24 hours, according to local officials.

They said the teams, formed by the South Shuneh Municipality, the Ministry of Public Works and the Civil Defence Department, were being supervised by the Public Safety Committee which was monitoring the situation around the clock, and directing workers to offer assistance to people in emergency cases.

District Governor Abdul Latif Tarawneh, who heads the committee, urged inhabitants of wadis and low-lying areas to move to safer ground, and called on heads of municipal councils to report on emergency cases to the committee so that immediate help can be organised.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Department (PSD) in Amman said that all roads in Jordan were passable following two days of heavy rain but it urged motorists to take extra precaution when driving in hilly areas which are covered by thick fog in some places.

The Department of Meteorology reported that Amman received 28.8 millimetres of rain water in the past two days, the highest rate in the country, and said that snow fell in Jerash, Kufuneh, Ajloun, Ras Munif and other neighbouring areas in the north of Jordan.

3 DIE IN ACCIDENTS: Two Jordanians and a girl of Polish nationality died and several other people were injured Friday in a number of accidents and incidents according to Al Dustour daily newspaper. The paper said that the Polish girl was knocked down by a car on the University of Jordan road while one of the two Jordanians was killed by a stray bullet as he was handling his gun and the other died of asphyxiation. (Petra)

4 tremors registered in Jordan Valley in '89

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four earth tremors were registered in the Jordan Valley region during January 1989, but no damage was reported, according to Natural Resources Authority (NRA) officials quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily Saturday.

The officials said that the NRA's Department of Seismology registered the tremors, which had their epicentres at Ras Al Karmel, Ramallah and Nabulus. They said that the four tremors measured 4.2, 4.1, 2.6 and 3.4 degrees on the Richter Scale and occurred between Jan. 1 and Jan.

17. The officials said that the same area was hit by a 4.2 degree earthquake on Jan. 1, 1988.

The department's director, Kaysi Al Kaysi, said in an interview with the Jordan Times that last month that the NRA started monitoring geophysical movements in the region in 1983 and has registered quakes along the

Arabian plate within a north-south "transition zone" of about 50 kilometres on both sides.

Kaysi said the department's statistics show that 250 local quakes were registered during the period from Sept. 1983 and Dec. 1987 among them six which were classified as felt with local magnitudes ranging from 5.2 to 4 on the Richter Scale.

COURSE ON LIBRARY MANAGEMENT: The president of Mu'ta University Saturday opened a five-day course on library management at Mu'ta University. Some 38 people from the Karak Governorate are taking part in this course. (Petra)

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Racing against time

ISRAEL first expressed concern about chemical weapons being introduced to the Middle East. Then came Israel's claim that some Arab countries have developed biological weapons and perfected delivery systems for their use on a regional scale. But there was silence from the same Israeli quarters about its nuclear capability. Be that as it may, the Arab-Israeli conflict has become overshadowed by ominous news about new weapon systems which promise to transfer this region into yet more dangerous levels of tension and anxiety. Of course the peoples of this region could have saved themselves and future generations of Arabs and Israelis from the awesome machines of destruction if the principal Arab-Israeli conflict was given a chance to be resolved when it should have been settled, i.e., a long time ago. The moral of this mass destruction weapons story is that time, it seems, is not playing on the side of peace; quite the opposite. The more time the countries and peoples of this region waste without a solution the harder the issues become to settle. And of course, the longer peace is denied or delayed the more the security threats and their implications become pressing due to the introduction of more and more sophisticated weapons to the area. And given the slow pace of the peace process in the Middle East, it is no longer farfetched to anticipate that the process of armament in the region would further accelerate to reach a point of no return.

The region has lost more than two precious decades since 1967 which could have been invested in restructuring relations between the states of the Middle East on a more sound and harmonious levels. Accordingly, if the efforts to strike an equitable settlement between the Arabs and Israel are thwarted again in 1989, there might not be another propitious occasion to do so for years to come. In which case the countries involved may not feel ready to enter the diplomatic channels before flexing their muscles with the new mass destructive weapons that they have acquired and invested so much time and money on. If the Israelis have not yet appreciated the importance of the time dimension in the Arab-Israeli conflict all they have to do to be convinced otherwise is to recall how easier it would have been to settle the conflict immediately after the adoption of the often prostituted U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. Only the blind among the blind would not see that for every month the peace process is delayed, the issues get harder and the security and political implications become graver.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Saturday focused light on Israel's prevarications in its deal with Egypt over the future of Tabá. The Israelis had said that they wanted an international tribunal to deal with the question of Tabá and when the tribunal ruled that the enclave was an Egyptian territory, they asked that the question be settled after the parliamentary elections in Israel, the paper said. It said that now that the elections are over Israeli negotiators are still adamant in their positions, and Tel Aviv is trying to drag its feet, holding on to various pretexts to avoid pulling out of the Arab territory. The Israelis are asking that they hold the right to the hotel and other property they have in Tabá and are showing all signs that they do not want to leave, the paper noted. It said that this should give the Arabs a lesson with regard to the question of the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the event the international peace conference took place.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses the change in the American government and says that the Reagan administration will be remembered as one that achieved détente between East and West and opened the way for fruitful relations with the Soviet Union. But the world will also remember that America lost a great deal of credibility as a result of Reagan's handling of the Middle East problem and his contradictions with regard to human rights which are being violated daily by Israel in the occupied territories, according to Abdul Rahim Omar. The writer says that Reagan has gone further in expressing Washington's support for Israel by vetoing all resolutions at the United Nations Security Council which would have condemned Israel's atrocities; and he has rendered the United States totally isolated alongside Israel from the rest of the world community as a result of Washington's Middle East policies. Now, the writer says, as George Bush takes over the government in Washington, the Arab people look with hope to the White House to see a real change in policy and more realistic dealing with the Middle East problem specially as the way is paved now through the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Al Dustour daily said Saturday that Israel's face is exposed to the world as a deteriorating political and military entity that finds itself impotent as to the uprising in Palestinian land and totally deprived of any credibility before the world. The killing of children as part of Israel's iron fist policy in the occupied territories proves beyond doubt that the Israeli rulers have exhausted all their resources in their futile attempts to quell the uprising and re-establish calm in areas under their control, the paper noted. It said that Israel's despair over the present situation can be manifested through Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's offer to the Palestinians to hold elections for autonomy rule in return for an end to the uprising. But it said that the Palestinians who are determined to carry on the fight for the sake of freedom do not swallow the bait and can never be taken in by such ploys and deceptive ideas.

Sawt Al Shaab daily described Rabin's proposals as a move intended to create an alternative for the PLO, and at the same time save the present coalition government from further embarrassment before the world. The paper said that the Middle East region which has suffered a great deal as a result of Israel's aggression can never find its way to peace and stability unless a comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli problem has been found through an international conference. The fact that the PLO has accepted resolutions 242 and 338 has stirred so much trouble for the Israelis who had hoped to perpetuate their occupation of Arab territories, the paper added. It said that Rabin's statements cannot save the Israeli government from world-wide condemnation or end its isolation from the world community.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Loopholes in the tax law closed

PART of the process of putting the Jordanian economy in order, the government issued amendments to the income tax law of 1985. The amendments will be published in the official gazette on February 1, 1989, but will come into effect retroactively as of January 1, 1989. However the income earned in 1988, which will be accounted for during 1989, will not be subjected to these amendments.

The purpose behind the amendments is purely financial. It will increase the proceeds of this direct tax through expanding the taxation base, and abolishing unreasonable exemptions and deductions.

According to 1989 budget, the estimated revenues of income and profits tax would rise from JD 44.8 million in 1988 to JD 60 million in 1989, a jump of 34 per cent. The newly introduced amendments may make such jump possible.

Following are the main features of the new amendments:

1. Interest earned by residents from their deposits and other financial investments abroad will be subjected to income tax. The original law did not touch this kind of "external" income except if made by banks and financial corporations. Maintaining such external deposits by residents remained illegal, but the illegality does not of course interfere in the taxability.
2. The Income Tax Department will allow banks and financial corporations to suspend interest due on doubtful debts. Previous-

ly such interest was taxed as long as the bad debtor was not pronounced by a court as bankrupt. Suspended interest will be taxed only in the year when they are actually collected.

3. Expenses incurred to earn exempted income will be excluded from the income statement. Exempted income in this instance means interest received on government bonds and treasury bills, and dividends received on shares. The excluded cost will be determined on prorata basis according to a set formula. Previously, such cost that could be excluded did not exceed 15 per cent of the interest earned.

4. Private and ordinary companies will not be allowed to deduct salaries paid to their managing partners or shareholders except to the extent of JD 3,600 per year per manager. Surplus over this ceiling will be considered as distribution of profit.

5. The mark up of prices by Islamic banks will be treated just like interest charged by commercial banks for the purpose of calculating deduction of tax payers buying their houses on credit basis. The deductible amount would not exceed JD 2,000 a year.

6. The escalation of tax on individuals will stop at 45 per cent instead of 55 per cent on income exceeding JD 25,000 a year after all allowances and deductions.

7. The cancellation of acceleration of tax rates on shareholding companies. All the net profits of such companies will be subjected to one rate which used to be the ceiling. The one rate tax will be

35 per cent for industrial public shareholding companies, 38 per cent for industrial private shareholding companies, 40 per cent for other shareholding companies, 50 per cent for banks and financial corporations, and 55 per cent for private shareholding companies engaged in finance and moneychanging.

8. Landlords will lose their exemption of tax on 30 per cent of rents earned on real estate in Amman and 50 per cent elsewhere. The exemption will be reduced to 10 per cent, applicable equally to rents earned anywhere in the country.

Besides the owners of houses and offices, the amendments will not substantially influence taxpayers, except banks and financial companies. They will be allowed to suspend interest on doubtful debts which used to be taxed. This incentive was long overdue to encourage banks to take provisions for possible losses on bad loans.

However, the crux of the new law is the closing of the big loophole through which the banks and financial companies used to avoid tax when they were investing borrowed money in bonds and shares, thus earning exempted gross income while incurring acceptable costs. Banks thus hedged their profits from income tax to the extent that some major banks were not required to pay a penny as tax on their huge profits. This step may lead banks to reduce their portfolios of bonds and shares to invest in other forms which have higher return to them and to the national economy.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

'Arabs, Israel reverse roles'

Israel has no alternative but to negotiate with PLO

By Anthony Parsons

IN THE PAST few weeks the diplomatic aspect of the Palestine problem has changed shape more radically than at any time since Israel occupied the whole of what used to be British Mandatory Palestine in June 1967: it can be argued that the change is greater than at any time since 1947 when the Jews accepted, and the Arabs rejected, the recommendation of the U.N. General Assembly that Palestine be partitioned into two states. Judging from Israel's first reaction, these roles have been reversed.

As a result of the Algiers meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), which in itself was a response to the uprising in the occupied territories, and Arafat's statement to the U.N. General Assembly on December 13, it is now clear that the Palestinian leadership has at last accepted partition and Israel's "right to exist." The British government, never an ardent supporter of the PLO, has accepted that these decisions supersede the clause in the Palestine national covenant which has been brandished in the past as evidence that the PLO is hell bent on the total destruction of Israel.

Moreover, by accepting Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 as well (which was, broadly speaking, designed to restore an approximation to the territorial status quo ante June 6 1967 in exchange for permanent peace rather than temporary armistice) the PLO seems ready to negotiate the creation of a much smaller "Arab State" than that which was rejected in 1947, i.e. a state the borders of which would reflect the gains made by Israel in 1948-49. Furthermore this state would form a confederal relationship with Jordan. In addition, Arafat's statement left me with the impression that the PLO is ready to negotiate face to face with Israel, albeit under the umbrella of an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council. Arab refusal to enter direct negotiations, which Israel has (rightly in my view) demanded ever since 1967, has been a major obstacle to the implementation of Resolution 242. When there were direct negotiations, in the Egypt/Israel sector, they worked.

The world as a whole has welcomed these initiatives. The 138 votes in favour (including all 12 members of the European Community) of the relevant General Assembly resolution on December 14 are evidence of this. Most important has been the United States' decision to open a dialogue with the PLO, although, not surprisingly, it voted against the resolution, thus reconfirming that it has yet to accept the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Israeli rejectionism

So far the Israeli reaction has been totally negative. The PLO's initiative has been nothing more than a confidence trick, a massive propaganda exercise. (This is a curious assertion in the light of the apparent gullibility of the United States. Few would contest the view that Arab propaganda over the past 40 years has been abysmally inept and ineffective. How has it suddenly become so brilliant?) The Israeli preference for direct negotiations with their adversaries seems to have changed to "no negotiations except with

people of our own choosing." For once Likud and Labour are united in rejectionism although certain nuances of difference have already emerged in public statements.

What actually lies behind the Israeli reaction? I do not blame them for being suspicious of the PLO's change of heart, but it is not as though it has come as a total bolt from the blue. Israel must have noticed that, with the exception of Syria, the leading members of the Arab League as well as the PLO have in recent years been inching in the direction of moderation and recognition of Israel. Is it that the PLO has been so comprehensively demolished in Israeli eyes that the psychological barrier to sitting down with Arafat is too high to jump? If so, the Americans should be able to use their dialogue with the PLO privately to allay these Israeli fears. Is it because Israelis genuinely believe that a PLO-governed state on their eastern border would threaten Israel's existence? I find it hard to credit that a Palestinian micro-state (even if ruled by the devil himself); almost certainly demilitarised, roped down by a binding peace treaty and probably by international guarantees, as well as being confederated with Jordan, could threaten the existence of the strongest military power in the Middle East. An outsider with a knowledge of past history might think that the boot would be on the other foot.

The old argument, with which I have had much sympathy, that there is asymmetry between giving up territory (and reducing Israel to something like its original wasteland) and signing bits of paper for which act the signatory was almost certain to be overthrown, has less force today. The Egypt/Israel peace treaty is now nearly 10 years old and it has survived the assassination of its architect, President Sadat. It is no longer the case, as it was in the 1950s and 1960s, that making peace with Israel would be a death warrant to any Arab regime. The atmosphere has changed fundamentally.

The options have closed

An early Israeli peace initiative may prove me wrong, but the problem, as I see it, is that there now appears to be no valid alternative for Israel between a continued refusal to negotiate or to negotiating with the PLO as proposed. I cannot believe that any Arab leader, including President Mubarak, would be prepared, as President Sadat was, to negotiate the future of the Palestinians over the head of the PLO. It seems equally improbable that an alternative Palestinian leadership will emerge inside or outside the occupied territories with which Likud could negotiate some kind of limited autonomy under ultimate Israeli control.

All Israelis must be conscious that they are going to come under great pressure, even from their friends, even from the United States (although this will take the form of "persuasion" rather than "leverage" if the history of the past 15 years is anything to go by). The international climate regarding "regional conflicts" is changing with the new superpower relationship. Many apparently insoluble problems are beginning to come out in the wash. The Vietnamese are withdrawing from Cambodia, the Soviet Union from Afghanistan, a cease-fire has been achieved in the

Iran/Iraq war, agreement has been reached over Angola/Namibia. These developments are building up a cumulative atmosphere of expectation that the remaining crises too — with Arab/Israel high on the list — must give way to peaceful negotiation. The international community will be extremely reluctant to see the recent Palestinian initiative join the overcrowded graveyard of 70 years of missed opportunities.

Obviously, the new Israeli government must be given time to settle down, as must the new U.S. administration. It is early days yet. But, if in, say, a few months time, Israel's adamant attitude has not softened, another question will have to be asked. Is the antipathy to the PLO in fact a blind to mask Israeli determination not to discuss withdrawal with anyone, and to hang onto "every inch" of the West Bank and Gaza with a view to eventual annexation? If so, Israel can no longer maintain that it accepts Resolution 242 as it has done ever since November 1967. From the outset, although the amount of territory to be surrendered in exchange for peace has varied according to interpretation by individual states of the ambiguous (in its English version) withdrawal clause, it has never been argued that the principle of withdrawal does not apply to all fronts, not just to Sinai. Israel's main champion, President Reagan, confirmed this in his major initiative of September, 1982, when he stated that the United States would not support "annexation or permanent control by Israel" and that "the withdrawal provision of Resolution 242 applies to all fronts including the West Bank and Gaza." The president's initiative was firmly grounded in the Camp David Accords, the preamble to which states that "the agreed basis for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Israel and its neighbours is U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 in all its parts." Furthermore, in the section dealing with the West Bank and Gaza, the negotiations to determine the final status of the territories, after the transitional period during which full autonomy was to be granted to the inhabitants, "shall be based on all the provisions and principles of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242."

Hence the Likud policy of "not an inch" of withdrawal from the occupied territories is incompatible even with lip-service to Resolution 242 or, by extension, to Camp David. If this becomes collective government policy i.e. if the new government flatly refuses to negotiate with the only available interlocutor, notwithstanding the encouragement to do so from the entire international community, then the world will have to face up to a new situation.

The one way forward

Needless to say, permanent Israeli control over the West Bank and Gaza, (still less formal annexation) would not bring Israel peace with her neighbours, even if the Palestinian uprising were dampened down, even if the policy of expulsion advocated by the ultra-extremists were adopted. The Arab World can maintain the existing situation of no peace punctuated by intermittent warfare indefinitely: even Israel cannot hope to subdue the whole region. Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien's prophecy (if I recall it

correctly) that Israel must resign itself to permanent siege would be fulfilled and its existence would continue to be that of a garrison state denied any normal commerce with its natural partners in the Middle East. I cannot believe that there are many people who would want this state of affairs to become a permanency.

I trust that the ship, if there is one, will not be blown off course by "terrorism". No government, let alone the PLO, can control everyone all the time and the probability is that there will be outrages provoked or perpetrated by extremists on one side or the other. But American and other intelligence should be good enough to know whether the

PLO leadership has gone back on its word. I am assuming that no one will try to characterise the Palestinian uprising itself as "terrorism". Resistance to alien military occupation has always been regarded as legitimate — the West's arming of the Afghan mujahidin is just one recent example in a history going back to Queen Boadicea and before — and it would be grotesque to regard stone-throwing by teenagers at armed Israeli soldiers as acts of "terrorism". Petrol bombing a civilian bus is quite a different matter.

My long-held belief is that genuine peace will come only through direct negotiation between the parties i.e. the Israelis

and the Palestinians, not through blueprints drawn up by outsiders, however well meaning and powerful. I have never believed in "imposed solutions" — look at Cyprus where, in 1959, Britain, Greece and Turkey imposed a solution to which neither community had aspired. But there must be a framework and Resolution 242 is the only one on which there is general agreement. I would have thought that the Israelis would have enough confidence in their own toughness and diplomatic skills to give such a scenario a try, even though this would mean facing the "dreaded" PLO across the same table — Middle East International, London.

To talk or to die

By Moshe Amirav

ALMOST everything political in the Middle East embodies personal symbols, dreams, memories.

The day I told my former party, the Likud, that we must open a dialogue with the PLO, I became, to them, a symbol-desecrator. In the Middle East, this is unforgivable.

Almost two years ago, I met with Faisal Husseini, the unofficial leader of the PLO in the territories. We both remember the understanding that evolved during the strange dialogue between an advocate of Greater Israel and one of Greater Palestine. Today, Faisal is in jail, and I am out of the Likud.

But the bridge built on the basis of mutual compromise, on dreams — that same bridge is the one which will have to be crossed by those who will, one day, sign the treaty of peace between us and them.

Since that meeting, I have met several times with "the enemy," — in the territories, in Europe, in the U.S., in Cairo. An increasing number of Israelis have had such meetings with our "enemy" in recent months, and this trend will continue, and even grow as time passes.

The realism that impels us to speak to one another is stronger than the Draconian law which forbids meetings for discussing peace; stronger even than the government of national unity which, by consensus, bans dialogue with the foe. The option open to us — enlightened Israelis and practical Palestinians — is: to speak or to die.

Getting back to the symbols and dreams in Middle East politics: I remember in my youth the reality of Israelis meeting with Arabs abroad, and the latter refusing to speak with them, or even to shake hands. For me, this was the symbol of historic rejectionism: we extended our hand, they rejected it. This symbol provided some consolation for the awful price we paid in wars of no choice.

I have now hung in my son's room the graduation photograph of D Company's NCO course in the Paratroop Corps; I have told him of the wonderful times we had in the Red Berets, the happy, smiling ones in that 1964 photo. Today, almost half of them are no longer with us, lost in the 1967 battle for Jerusalem against the Jordanian Arab army; the Karamah battle in 1968, and the Yom Kippur War of 1973 against the Egyptians.

This photo in the room of a

youth who, in a few years, will be called up for army service, represents for me a symbol, memories, and also the price we paid for their refusal to take our hand in peace.

In Cairo a short while ago, I was on the rostrum of the U.N. congress, addressing a large group of journalists from all the Arab countries. Next to me on sat Labib Terzi, the PLO's representative at the U.N. Before we had even mounted the stage facing a hall packed with Egyptian diplomats and visiting journalists, he approached me with a smile and held out his hand as a gesture of peace. I knew that the moment I took his hand, in an act recorded by the cameras, I should be transgressing our law and liable to imprisonment. I turned away, avoided shaking his hand, and mounted the stage.

In my naivete, I thought I would like to have had with me that photo of the D Company graduation course, half of whose participants paid with their lives so that only today, after such a tragic delay, would Terzi be ready to approach me to shake my hand.

Have things indeed changed so much? Do Terzi, and Faisal Husseini, and all the other "enemies" I have met, want to shake our hands. Only now it is we who are the rejectionists.

At my very first meeting with Faisal, he told me: "We Palestinians are changing. We have reached the conclusion that we must give up the dream of Greater Palestine so that, together, we can live in peace as two states, side by side."

And the more time passes, the more residues of enmity are added, and the wall we are building gets higher and higher. And we are so immersed in the symbols, the dreams and the memories, that we do not see what is happening with them.

We may have lost something very Jewish, an almost genetic quality — seeing reality through the eyes of a neighbour or a foe. There are some among them, and among us, who joke about us Israelis having turned into Arabs, and they having become Jews.

On that stage in Cairo, under the U.N. flag, I heard Terzi say: "Mr. Amirav, the time has come for even you Israelis, to wake up from your dreams and fears. We are now doing this in a long, painful process. We today are giving up the old idea of a secular, democratic state in all of Palestine, in order that we may find a compromise solution. We are giving up the dream of the Palestinian Charter, which

speaks of Greater Palestine and the destruction of Israel, so that there will be peace for our children in part of this land. Peace for your children, too, Mr. Amirav."

When I spoke with Faisal Husseini in the past, I used to see in his face the pain of realisation and admission of the mistake his father, Abdul Kader Al Husseini, had made. He used to say, "We were wrong not to accept the 1947 U.N. Partition Resolution." And his father, one of the legendary leaders of the Palestinian movement then, fell in the battle at the Kastel on the road to Jerusalem, fighting to prevent the implementation of that U.N. decision.

Faisal's son is the same age as mine. They were born 14 years ago. Each of us named our sons by a name symbolising our heritage: he called his Abdul Kader after his father, the heroic fighter; I called mine Iri ("My City"), in honour of Jerusalem, for which I fought and was wounded in June 1967.

I suppose both of us see our sons as extensions of our dreams, builders of the symbols of patriotic ideologies in which we both existed as proud prisoners for so many years.

In those talks I had with Faisal, when he told me quietly, but decisively, that because he wished his son Abdul Kader to live in peace side by side with my son, Iri, he was ready to give up Jaffa and Haifa, how could I not give up my dream of the mountains of Samaria and Judea, Nabulus and Hebron, city of the Patriarchs? But would there not be those who thought I had fallen into the net of the PLO Machiavellis?

That series of talks in Jerusalem, the meetings with PLO men abroad, the dialogue in Cairo with Terzi — all these were not enough to convince them that something had indeed changed from Masada to Auschwitz, that the Arabs were heading for peace and not for the "Programme of Stages" designed to wipe out Israel.

But this dialogue I have conducted with them does have an historic imperative, an unquenchable drive impelling us to talk or to die.

Who knows? The solution may lie in those places where Jews and Arabs take leave of their symbols, their dreams, their memories.

The writer is the co-ordinator of activities for the Council for Peace and Security in Israel. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Basrah revived

Iraq has launched a massive reconstruction in Basrah, until recently the target of Iranian artillery. The goal is to restore to the ancient port city its popular reputation as the "Venice of the East".

By Leon Y. Barkho

BASRAH — Four months ago, Iraq's southern city of Basrah was a battlefield. With the war raging at its doorstep, sandbagged fortifications concealed the city's public buildings, windows and doors of shops and houses.

Now, this ancient port city, from where Sinbad the Sailor reputedly launched on his voyages, seems building towards the future. A series of colossal public works have been launched since the cease-fire with Iran. Officials say the projects are aimed at transforming the shell-ridden city into Iraq's most beautiful.

In the pipeline are \$4.5 billion to reopen Iraq's only direct outlet to the sea and the outside world and revitalize the city. "Modernising the city is a bold step towards peace, everlasting peace," said Mayor Anwar Hadithi. In a single night, he said, he counted as many as 372 heavy artillery shells that fell "on my beloved Basrah." The city is only about 20 kilometres from the border with Iran.

The thunder of the guns has been replaced by the noise of cranes, bulldozers and heavy lorries engaged in Iraq's largest and most ambitious postwar redevelopment plan.

High rises and new residential quarters are sprouting up and plans are well ahead to supply the city with a huge network of roads, bridges and canals.

City planners say they learned from previous experiments, particularly those of Britain, France and Germany where new cities emerged from the ashes of those devastated during World War II.

"We have revised their plans

and learned a great deal from them. We don't want to get involved in another war — this time against the miseries of an unplanned urban sprawl," Dr. Mahdi Mudhafar of Basrah University told *Academic File*.

Mudhafar said a party of specialists comprising mainly university professors meets regularly to evaluate projects being carried out and advise on those still in the planning stage. "Each government organisation desires to have a finger in the pie. The committee's task is to avoid duplication and prevent the city from turning into an urban monster," he said.

Some agencies want Basrah again to live up to its popular nickname, "Venice of the East." The city contains little that is architecturally comparable to Venice even though the wooden facades of houses in the old streets retain their charm amid heavy damage by the Iranian artillery. The canals are being cleared of the debris of war.

Basrah's potential, say the planners, lies in restoring its ambience and "the romance" of a legendary place. "Modernisation has to be part of this romance. We, the Basrawis, are closely associated with Shatt al-Arab (waterway), its canals, creeks of lagoons," said Dr. Farouq al-Umer, the Basrah University's urban planning specialist.

"We need to plant more palm trees, increase the area of cultivated land and care for the fauna and flora of Basrah," he said.

Laid away from the urban hub are thick date groves with an estimated 10 million trees. The whole area from Shatt al-Arab up to Amara on the Tigris and Suq Shiyakh on the Euphrates is dotted with gardens, many of them on the banks of calm la-

goons, where canoes lie idle. Wildlife is returning to these traditional retreats.

The shaded canal just below Ashar, the heart of the city, is once again full of singing and dancing — a magnet for picnickers and wedding parties. At the moment, most of the celebrations are in an improvised environment. Basrawi revellers arrive in groups, loaded with food and drink, spread their carpets, produce hand-drums and begin their dancing.

But Mayor Hadithi, though environment conscious, may have other priorities. Thousands of the civilians have returned to the city following the United Nations brokered cease-fire on Aug. 20. "Priority has to be given to housing and public amenities," said a senior government official. "The war's legacy is very harsh."

According to provincial records, about 65,000 heavy artillery shells fell on the city's residential quarters, destroying thousands of houses — actually one house in three — 140 schools, 57 mosques, 13 hotels, 18 hospitals, six churches and 1,588 civilian cars. The shelling killed 1,638 civilians and wounded 7,282.

Since the cease-fire, life has been returning to normal. The old bazaar once again is crowded with shoppers and the shops are well stocked. The visitors are greeted by the mixed fragrance of spices, herbs and coffee — just as in the old days.

Hadithi, formerly the mayor of Mosul in northern Iraq, has been very cautious in his handling of old Basrah. But the war has taken a toll of the old houses. Several grand structures, with their high, pointed windows and facades of latticed Shenshili, the overhanging wooden balconies, fell easy prey to Iran's heavy shelling.

The mayor intends to restore as many of these old houses as possible. Restorers from the Antiquities Department already have drawn up plans to preserve the rows of impressive old structures on both sides of the canal.

It is only Basrah's harbour which is not on the move. The forest of cranes at the wharves of the port is at a standstill since the start of the hostilities in 1980. Rusting hulls of ships lie alongside the jetties opposite the hand-



somely domed Port Authority building, a relic of the 1930s and a fine example of the British Raj period architecture.

So far, Iran has refused to clear the Shatt al-Arab waterway which forms the frontline between the two countries. The channel has silted up. Iraq has said that it will divert the Shatt al-Arab waterway and build an alternative port if the dispute over the blocked waterway is not resolved.

If that happens, the strategic position of Basrah as a commercial and industrial hub of southern Iraq might change. But the

city has other resources to draw on. Founded in about 338 by the second caliph Umar Khattab, Basrah boasts one of the richest cultural legacies in the Arab World.

For almost three centuries after its foundation, Basrah was the capital of the Arab Muslim empire, reaching its zenith in the 8th and the beginning of the 9th century.

Here Arabic grammar was born and made illustrious by Sibawayh and Khalil bin Ahmad. Here too, Islamic mysticism was first introduced by Hasan al-Basri and his disciples. Arabic prose

was also born in Basrah of the pens of Ibn al-Muqafa and al-Djahiz.

In poetry Basrah has had no rival. It can claim the great Umayyad poets and modernists Bashshar bin Burd and Abu Nawas.

More than 1,500 Arab poets gathered in Baghdad recently to commemorate Basrah's Mirdad, the ancient halting place for caravans and venue of poets and men of letters. The large share of Arab history that Basrah can claim alone should hold the city in good stead for years to come. — *Academic File*.

Population rise slows Africa's progress

THE WORLD economy grew by about four per cent in 1988, the sixth year of its recovery from the "stagflation" brought about by the dramatic upsurge in oil prices from 1974 onwards.

Even Africa, the poorest continent, achieved an estimated growth rate of 2.5 per cent, almost double the figure for 1987. Unfortunately, however, the increase in the gross domestic product again failed to keep pace with the rise in population which reached three per cent.

Consequently, as the United Nations Economic Commission (ECA) for Africa points out in its annual review, Africans grew poorer. Moreover, the ECA warns that the trend is most likely to be repeated this year.

A similar increase in the economic growth rate would not match population growth so that the decade-long decline in living standards would continue.

The Commission's executive secretary, Adebayo Adedji, went even further by saying that even this "cheerless" forecast might prove to be optimistic if the main underlying assumption — that the continent would enjoy favourable weather conditions — turned out to be misplaced.

Illustrating the cumulative impact of persistent economic crisis on the standards and living conditions of the average African, Adedji said: "Today, his or her per capita income is only about 80 per cent of what it was at the beginning of the decade."

Due to weaknesses in the prices of its commodity exports, Africa had been unable to free itself from the trap of having to spend more than it earned to buy imports and repay its debts.

The continent's external debt now stood at \$230 billion, an increase of \$12 billion on the 1987 figure, Adedji said.

For two major commodity exports, however, the outlook has brightened considerably. Market prices for coffee recently reached

a two-year peak, while those for cocoa rose to their highest level since last August.

Coffee prices rose sharply as a result of panic buying caused by lower crop prospects and other problems in key Latin American producer-countries. This gives African producers an opportunity to step into the breach.

In Brazil, which normally takes the lion's share of exports, about 30 per cent — adverse weather may reduce April's harvest by half. A dock strike there has exacerbated the supply problem, while the weather has also affected crop prospects in much of Central America.

Meanwhile, cocoa prices rose to \$1,620 per tonne following the disclosure that a leading producer, Côte d'Ivoire, had concluded its biggest ever export deal.

Under this the West African country will sell 400,000 tonnes — more than 75 per cent of its average annual exports — to a French company. The deal, reached after lengthy secret talks, is seen as part of a concerted effort by France to rehabilitate the Ivorian economy.

When he announced it in Abidjan, President Houphouët-Boigny said the aim was to shield the Côte d'Ivoire from speculators who had driven down cocoa prices. For several months his country had been under attack from speculators trying to subvert its policy of paying fair prices to its cocoa farmers.

About four of every ten of the Côte d'Ivoire's ten million population depend on the commodity for their living. Cocoa, which represents about 40 per cent of exports, helped to create the economic boom of the 1970s and early 1980s.

But market prices fell to reach a 13-year low in 1987, and this has strained the Ivorian government's finances due to its insistence on continuing to protect the growers — Lion features.

An opera house is born

By Heinz Stachelhaus

THE history of architecture offers countless examples of plans for buildings that were never carried out. The reasons vary: often it was due to lack of money, often because the ideas were too utopian. But putting a design on ice for 30 years before realising it is something rather unique. This happened in Essen. Invitations were extended to enter a competition for the design of an opera house in 1958. Alvar Aalto, the distinguished Finnish architect, won first prize. A contract was signed in 1960, and, four years later, the plans and models were exhibited. They were finally ready for execution in 1976; Alvar Aalto died the same year, aged 78.

In 1979, the Essen City Council adopted a basic resolution to build the theatre according to Aalto's plans — once the new City Hall had been completed. This provoked massive protest from the public. There was a federal-wide campaign by architects opposing the resolution — not opposing Alvar Aalto whose stature had never been disputed. The main tenor of the criticism was that, whilst Aalto's design undoubtedly represents an important piece of modern

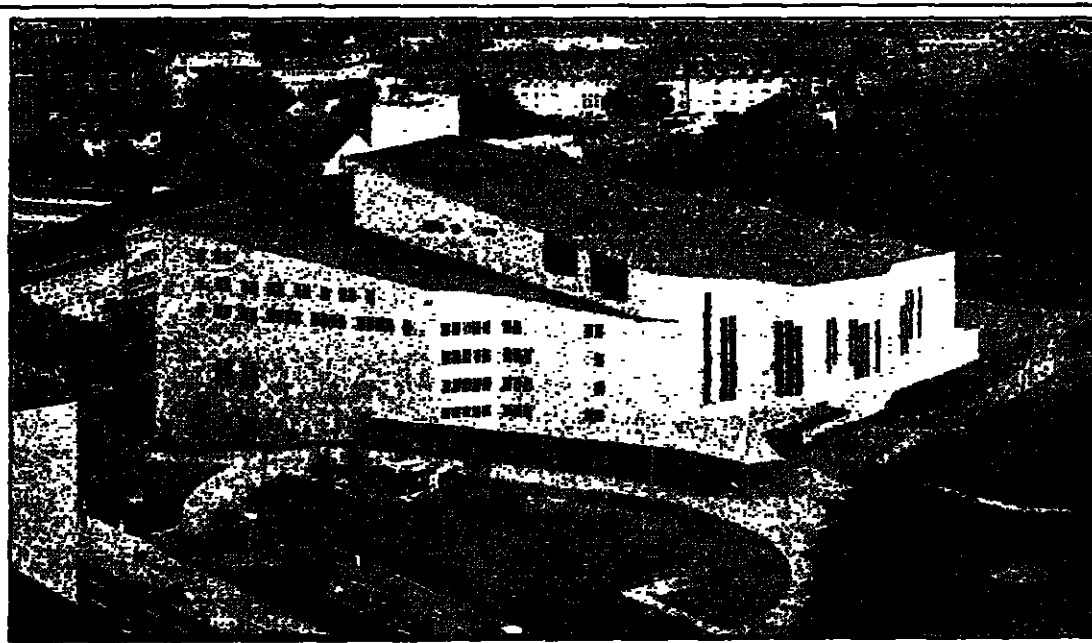
architecture, it was — two decades later — no longer in keeping with the times in the light of architectural developments since the 1960s. Moreover, the building costs — a figure of 150 million German marks was mentioned — were far too high, they objected.

But the Essen City Council did not allow itself to be dissuaded. They commissioned Münster-based architect Harald Deilmann to proceed with the planning: in other words, to adapt Aalto's design to the latest state-of-the-art technologically. Building work commenced in 1983, and in September 1988 — 30 years after the competition — the new edifice, which had only cost 130 million marks after all, was ceremoniously dedicated with a performance of Richard Wagner's "Meistersinger".

No doubt about it: the Aalto Theatre, as the building is now known officially, is one of the outstanding pieces of international architecture in this century. It is gigantic but not overwhelming; in its dimensions it is a harmonious and humane sculpture, showing the unmistakable hand of architect Alvar Aalto. Its specific form of appearance is fascinating, reminiscent of a crag or a tree stump, sawn off at an angle — as Aalto intended.

As far back as the 1930s, Aalto's architectural philosophy was based on the idea that it was essential to realise organic concepts. For Aalto, this meant integrating the building into the existing spatial situation: in other words, he always regarded architecture in a broader city-planning context. With his theatre concept, Aalto also attempted an overall solution. Now that it is finished, it has emerged that the building in the municipal garden area could not have been better sited: architecture and nature form an optimal ambience.

Aalto also strived for the formal optimum with and in his building. He designed chairs and tables for the cafeteria, prescribed ribbed black leather for the handrails and horseshair coverings for the doors to the auditorium. He insisted on the skirting being bronze and that the bronze supports for the handrails were really cast. We have to thank Harald Deilmann — together with Elissa Aalto, the Finnish architect's second wife and herself a trained architect, who was engaged as consultant for the overall design — for the fact that careful attention was paid to all these details. Right from the start, Deilmann's maxim



Completed after 30 years of planning: the Essen Opera House, designed by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. It is probably the last theatre of this order of magnitude to be dedicated in the Federal Republic of Germany in this century. (Photo INP/Deiter Leisner)

for further work on the design was the preservation of Aalto's artistic and architectural concept, making due allowance for the changes which had occurred with the passing of time in regard to the music-theatre's spatial programme. Furthermore, the design had to be adapted to the latest building and technical regulations.

Exterior and interior: Aalto's architecture is conspicuous for its

clearness, its interesting and diversified disposition. Whether it is the "skin" of vertically profiled light granite with asymmetrically arranged rows of windows, or the grandiose sequence of foyers, staircases and galleries — one senses everywhere that Aalto was not an architect with a love of detail: he was a master-builder intent on giving people a feeling of warmth, security, whilst simultaneously creating spatial ex-

pense, opening up vistas. The fascination of the Aalto Theatre in Essen emanates from this contrast between nearness and distance, openness and compactness. There it stands, this gigantic tree stump, a historical monument, but nevertheless contemporary. In this respect it is a triumph of the classical-modern over the fashionable post-modern. (IN-Press)

Where frogs mean money

By Charles Lambelin

Reuter

BOGOTA — Colombia is preparing to jump into the booming world market for frogs' legs, which is worth tens of millions of dollars.

More than 10,000 tonnes of frogs' legs — mostly from Asian nations like India, Indonesia and Bangladesh — are exported every year and end up on tables in the United States, France and other West European countries.

The French are the world's biggest consumers with 4,000 tonnes of frogs' legs in 1980.

The United States come second with imports of between 2,000 and 3,000 tonnes a year.

Colombia's Exports Promotion Fund, (PROEXPO), and the Natural Resources Defence Institute, are promoting studies on the possible impact on environment of setting up frog farms.

"Colombian ambient conditions, which warm and stable climates all year round, give the country comparative advantages for frog breeding," PROEXPO said in its latest monthly bulletin.

The venture seems financially attractive as prices are on the way up, due to a relative scarcity. In the United States, wholesale prices rose 25 per cent this year to \$4.65 per half kilogramme. PROEXPO said.

U.S. trade department statistics show that the United States imported \$2.75 million worth of

frogs' legs in the first four months of the year, up 34 per cent over the same period of 1987.

The scarcity is due to conservation measures taken by the main producers in Asia, where frogs are hunted rather than bred.

Frogs vs. insects

Bangladesh, which normally covers 75 per cent of U.S. needs, suspended exports last April after discovering that the extermination of frogs, which live on insects, could lead to an increase in insect-transmitted diseases. It also found out that the cost of imported insecticides exceeded income from frogs' legs exports.

A similar situation is developing in India and China, which have restricted exports.

Japan and Cuba were among the first countries to import bull frogs and set them free in rice-growing areas. The two countries were each exporting about 900 tonnes in the late 1960s.

But in both cases, frogs were hunted rather than bred and the frog population was soon decimated. Cuba had to cut down its exports while Japan became a net importer.

Brazil was the first country in Latin America to experiment in breeding frogs in tanks and now has more than 1,000 frog farms. Brazil's national association of frog growers estimated the world market at 10,000 tonnes in 1983 and more than 15,000 tonnes in 1987.

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Philadelphia exchange kicks off trading

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Trusting that money never sleeps, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange Friday launched an historic pre-dawn trading session for foreign currency options and futures.

Senior exchange officials rang the opening bell at 4:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) for excited but bleary-eyed traders. Moments later the new session completed its first trade — 650 option contracts for Deutschmarks.

While the exchange moved up the start of trading to attract more European business by overlapping with morning hours there, officials acknowledged the grueling nature of the new hours. "It requires a certain amount of insanity," exchange president Nicholas Giordano said of the pre-dawn trading, the first-ever by a U.S. exchange.

Volume for the debut session totalled 12,000 currency option contracts, more than double the exchange's initial target of 5,000 contracts and twice the session's

estimated break-even point. The exchange's entire daytime volume averaged about 40,000 contracts a session in 1988.

Futures and options are contracts to buy or sell various items — from wheat to foreign currency — at a specified price on or until some future date. An option differs from a future in that it is only the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell.

Daytime trading in Philadelphia previously started at 8 a.m. (1300 GMT). The session ends at 2:30 p.m. (1930 GMT), followed by a night session from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (2300 GMT to 0300 GMT the next day) that began in September 1987 to attract Asian business.

The new morning session gives Philadelphia the longest trading

day of any world exchange. The exchange has said it will consider longer nighttime hours if the early-morning trading succeeds.

"The sun never rises and sets on foreign currency options trading," said Tagge Securities Corp. Chairman Barry Tagge.

Tagge, who spearheaded Philadelphia's pioneering of currency options trading in 1982, said the expanded hours were vital given the 24-hour over-the-counter currency options market and the fact that Europe accounts for up to 50 per cent of Philadelphia's currency options business.

After five years of rapid growth, the exchange's overall volume in foreign currency options fell last year to about 10 million contracts from 10.4 million in 1987.

Exchange members were enthusiastic about the new hours, approved last fall, although some were concerned about the personal inconvenience of working in the wee hours of the morning.

brokerage officials said at the opening.

"It's not bad if you're a bat," said Bear Stearns and Co. operations official Albert Carter. "You sure can't beat the traffic this time of day."

"Coming in this early doesn't bother me at all, as long as there's business," said currency options broker Michael Donegan at Prudential-Bache Securities Inc.

The extended morning shift should create about 50 new jobs for floor traders, brokers and clerks, said Arnold Staloff, president of Philadelphia Board of Trade Inc., which oversees currency options and futures trading. About 150 people work the currency options floor during a normal daytime session.

Dealers fear fraud allegations may hit futures trading

Meanwhile, dealers on the

world's two largest futures exchanges fear trading may be hit by allegations of massive corruption in which floor traders and brokers cheated their customers and each other out of millions of dollars.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents, posing as floor traders, uncovered the fraud in a probe of the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange that could yield indictments against 150 people and may involve organized crime, a source close to the investigation said.

Officially the investigation is still a secret. U.S. Attorney Anton Valukis, who is believed to be leading the investigation, said Friday, "I can say nothing."

An investigation source told Reuters that FBI agents believe organized crime used the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange to launder illegal profits from criminal activities.

The source said relatives of organized crime figures have worked at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in positions where they could launder crooked money.

A spokesman for that exchange called the organized crime report "unfounded and irresponsible."

Employees at the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange openly expressed hope Friday, as the exchanges closed for the weekend, that the full extent of a government investigation into their operations would soon be made public.

But dealers on both exchanges fear the continuing uncertainty could dampen trading in futures, which involves speculation on the future price of commodities such as grain or financial instruments such as bonds.

The probe has already deflated prices of seats on both exchanges, where one seat sold Friday for \$40,000 less than the asking price just two weeks earlier.

"We are going to see a slowdown in trading volume in the near term unless further details are provided by the authorities on the FBI investigation," one worried trader said Friday.

"There's always bound to be a few bad apples when there are large numbers of traders on the

floor... they must be exposed so that the public knows we are all not a bunch of crooks and confidence can be restored," said a broker.

The fraud probe may result in the indictment of 150 or more traders, in an investigation which sources have said could rival the 1986 Wall Street insider trading scandal in scope.

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange also denied broadcast and newspaper reports that its firms or officers had been subpoenaed, saying:

"Rumours and reports concerning subpoenas being issued to the firms or officers of the exchange are unfounded and irresponsible. We do not believe that any of our firms are implicated in any wrongdoing. To our knowledge, a limited number of subpoenas have been issued to brokers and traders, and one has been issued to the exchange for documents."

The government has subpoenaed records and files of both exchanges dating back to 1983.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported Friday that part of the FBI probe involves six wealthy traders who ran an unofficial "school" to promote trade rigging and profit skimming.

The Chicago Tribune reported that one of the FBI "moles" held a seat on the board of trade and turned a profit of more than \$100,000 during the year he worked the floor trying to tape-record illegal dealing in the soybean trading pit.

Investigators were tipped off to the money laundering scheme by street informants, the source said, while the inquiry into cheating on the exchange floors was begun after individuals within the futures industry itself asked the FBI for help in rooting out fraud.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, Jan. 21, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	488.0	490.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	382.0	383.9
Pound Sterling	867.1	871.4	Dutch guilder	232.2	236.4
Deutschemark	265.5	266.8	Swedish crown	77.8	78.2
Swiss franc	312.7	314.3	Italian lira (for 100)	36.2	36.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	127.0	127.6

Iraq puts more tourist facilities for privatisation

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government has offered more of its tourist facilities for sale in a new bid to privatise its tourist sector, according to a Baghdad daily Saturday.

An Iraq newspaper reported that the government has offered 74 tourist facilities for sale to the private sector, including major Baghdad hotels and resort villages in northern Iraq.

Al-Iraq quoted the government official in charge of selling the tourist facilities as saying that 36 tourist projects will be sold to companies set up specifically to run them, while 38 projects will be sold to individual entrepreneurs.

The official, Abdul Tawab Mullah Huwais, said major projects which need larger investments will be sold to newly established companies, while small

projects which could be bought by individual businessmen will be turned over to them.

He did not say how much money will be paid by the private sector to take over the projects — mainly hotels, restaurants and tourist villages.

The government last week sold two of its major Baghdad hotels including the prestigious Sheraton to a private company.

Last year the government abolished the State Tourism Authority and decided to sell all its assets to the private sector.

Huwais said the government would take shares in the new companies but will not be represented on their boards of directors.

"Our policy is not to run these facilities or even be represented at their boards," he said.

Active buying buoys silver

NEW YORK (R) — New York silver prices rose sharply Friday in the busiest session in over two months as the market speculated the metal's recent tumble was overdue.

March silver, which fell to 22-month lows last Thursday, jumped 20.7 cents to a 1989-high of \$6.245 an ounce on the New York Commodity Exchange (N.Y. Comex).

The metal's rise boosted February Comex gold by \$4.80, to \$409.30 an ounce, while April platinum futures rose by \$10.40, to \$546.10 an ounce, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Silver futures fell last week to \$5.83 an ounce, their lowest price since March 1987, but have since surged amid heightened investor interest in the cheap metal.

"Silver is a bargain and smart money traders seem to be accumulating," said Don Tierney of the metal trading firm Stanley Bell Inc.

Silver prices peaked at over \$8 an ounce last July before eroding amid a global surplus. Any further drop in prices will force the industry to close a number of mines, analysts said. Production costs are relatively high.

The metal's future direction is still unclear, analysts cautioned. "The market is too close to the lows and buyers should wait for silver to distance itself from those levels before making any serious commitments," said one.

Silver is vulnerable because it is a by-product in the mining of base metals. Analysts fear the metal's surplus could worsen as copper companies, encouraged by record high prices, increase their production.

Jeffrey Nichols of American Precious Metals Adviser said silver has suffered from speculative apathy this year, due to the strong dollar and low inflation. Precious metals are often bought as a hedge against inflation or a weak dollar.

Central banks continue assault on dollar

Meanwhile, central banks renewed their attack on the dollar Friday in the second straight day of coordinated intervention to knock the currency off its recent 3½-month highs.

The dollar fell to 1.8375 marks from Thursday's close of 1.8545 marks and slipped to 127.75 yen from 128.65 yen.

The Federal Reserve (Fed), West German Bundesbank and six other central banks sold dollars, reinforcing their commitment to drag the U.S. currency down, dealers said.

On Thursday the Fed, Bundesbank and eight other central banks dumped between \$750 million and \$1 billion on the market. While Friday's actions were not as aggressive, the back-to-back nature of the dollar attack made

the banks' intentions perfectly clear, dealers said.

The dollar peaked at 1.8725 marks and 128.70 yen Wednesday and finally declined Thursday after the Fed and Bundesbank intervened four times each and five West European central banks raised key interest rates.

The Bundesbank sold dollars at about 1.85 marks Friday while the Fed joined in later at 1.8495 marks, dealers said. The central banks of Austria, Belgium, Britain, France, Italy and Switzerland soon followed suit.

The dollar responds only to massive assaults, dealers said, as it draws strength from firm U.S. interest rates and hopes that President Bush will tackle the federal budget deficit.

The dollar fell in the afternoon after Bush failed to outline a deficit-cutting plan in his inaugural speech, dealers said. The new president urged negotiation between the White House and Congress but did not mention a specific strategy.

While the week's intervention did rein in the dollar, some traders worried about this method of stabilising foreign exchange rates.

The dollar fell against most major currencies, slipping to 1.5600 Swiss francs from 1.5780 francs and boosting the pound to \$1.7775 from \$1.7645. The U.S. currency rose to 1.1891 Canadian dollars from Thursday's 1.1865.

British inflation accelerates to 6.8%

LONDON (R) — Inflation in Britain accelerated to 6.8 per cent in December but a rise in consumer spending slowed in the last three months of 1988, a sign that government efforts to cool an overheating economy are succeeding.

Official figures Friday said the inflation rate, which rose 0.3 per cent last month, was the highest since July 1985. Home loan and bank lending also rose in December.

But the rise in consumer spending was 1.4 per cent compared with 2.2 per cent in the third quarter of 1988.

This followed a progressive increase in interest rates from 7.5 to 13 per cent since June, made by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson in an attempt to cool the economy.

Analysts said the latest crop of statistics were in line with expectations and signalled that higher interest rates were having their effect although inflation had yet to peak.

Roger Nightingale, an economist with stockbrokers Smith New Court, said: "The indications are that things are going relatively well... the chancellor is finding that his interest rates medicine is

finally working. I think he will be happy to sit and watch the figures gradually moderate."

The rise in December inflation was blamed mainly on higher prices for food.

Opposition Labour Party spokesman Michael Meacher described the 6.8 per cent rate as "cripping and added: "Wage demands made in response threaten to set off a wage inflation spiral."

Meacher said: "In 1988, Britain is unique in the developed world — a high inflation, high unemployment economy."

Analysts expect inflation to reach between seven and eight per cent before it begins to fall but Lawson was told parliament he still expects to cut it to five per cent by the end of 1989.

The government says inflation figures are distorted by the inclusion of the cost of mortgage lending which has risen sharply in line with interest rates.

Excluding mortgages, inflation was 5.1 per cent in December, unchanged from November.

Bank and building society lending in December rose by £7 billion (\$12.3 billion) compared with £5.4 billion (\$9.5 billion) in November.

The Bank of England (central

bank) said the figures always showed a large increase in December.

Unemployment declines

Earlier, the government reported that the number of people without jobs in Britain fell in December to its lowest for nearly eight years.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment was down to 2.04 million or 7.2 per cent of the workforce last month from 2.1 million or 7.5 per cent in November.

At the same time, the Employment Department said average earnings in November rose by a lower-than-expected 8.75 per cent from nine per cent in October.

Economists said the slowdown in pay rises was an encouraging sign for Lawson in his fight to contain inflation.

Bob Semple, an economist at Brokers County Natwest Woodmac, said: "Clearly the figures are to be welcomed."

The fall in unemployment was seen as evidence of continued strength in the economy, despite Lawson's attempts to choke off inflationary growth with a tough interest rate policy.

Government schemes for the unemployed, combined with stricter rules on the claiming of unemployment benefits have also helped bring the jobless figure down.

The government also announced a surprise 0.1 per cent fall in industrial output in November, while the market had expected a 0.3 per cent rise after October's 0.5 per cent rise.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

WHO approves \$653 million budget

GENEVA (R) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has agreed to spend 13.5 U.S. cents per year for every person in the world over the next two years to raise global health standards. A statement issued Friday at the end of the WHO executive board meeting, accepted Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima's proposed budget of over \$653 million for the 1990-91 period, \$44 million up on 1988-89. Voluntary contributions made outside the regular budget — for which compulsory assessments are made — would provide approximately \$700 million of additional support to special WHO programmes around the world, the statement added. A spokesman for the Geneva-based U.N. organisation said the extra money would come from governments, as well as public and private institutions to support specific programmes, such as the fight against AIDS. WHO, founded in 1948, has 166 member nations and is engaged in a campaign to provide essential health care for the world's population by the year 2000.

Algeria opposes oil price above \$18

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Bousenna was quoted Friday as saying he opposes an increase in the \$18 a barrel OPEC benchmark price, despite the current upward trend on the world market. "Algeria would prefer to see an increase in the production ceiling rather than in prices as a means of guaranteeing stability in the oil market," Bousenna was quoted as saying in an interview with the Al Khaleej daily newspaper. Bousenna described the market situation as "highly sensitive" and stressed that OPEC members were "strictly adhering" to their individual quotas. Bousenna's predecessor, Belkacem Nabi, had described the \$18 price as "barely acceptable," demanding that the group should aim for a price of \$28 per barrel.

Indonesia eyes Asian investors

JAKARTA (AP) — Currency appreciation will boost investment in Indonesia by Asia's industrial countries, the official Antara News Agency said Saturday. High exchange rates of local currencies have pushed up production costs in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore forcing investors to look for new places to operate abroad, said Sanyoto Sasrowardoyo, chief of the investment board. "Many investors in those countries can't take it any longer. They are now seeking to invest in other countries," Sanyoto told the news agency. Low production costs in Indonesia will be a great advantage to attract foreign investors, the news agency said. Sanyoto said the government approved \$4.4 billion worth of new foreign investment proposals in 1988, up from \$1.46 billion in the previous year. Japan and the four other large Asian industrial economies accounted for \$1.7 billion of foreign investment approved in Indonesia last year, Sanyoto said.

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Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Sunday, Jan. 14, '89 and ending Wednesday Jan. 18, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Week starting Sunday, Jan. 14, '89 and ending Wednesday Jan. 18, '89. (figures in Jordanian dinars)					
Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	8400	13638	1.620	1.630	1.000
Petra Bank	9230	21608	2.350	2.380	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1134	2067	1.850	1.830	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	2835	4144	1.470	1.470	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	4732	5779	1.220	1.220	1.000
Housing Bank	6335	12037	1.900	1.900	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1100	33000	29.000	30.000	5.000
Cairo Amman Bank	2996	41186	15.250	15.900	5.000
Bank of Jordan	5990	862272	142.500	143.500	10.000
Arab Bank	18394	48849	2.650	2.660	1.000
Jordan National Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	6900	15547	2.450	2.550	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	202805	119319	0.560	0.610	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	550	1109	2.060	2.040	1.000
National Financial Investments	26026	21988	0.850	0.850	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	40072	41506	0.920	1.040	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	259420	161581	1.110	1.090	10.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	650	891	1.310	1.370	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	300	323	1.080	1.100	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Middle East Insurance	82800	82847	1.000	1.210	10.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	66615	48770	0.680	0.760	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	40313	31468	0.670	0.830	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	36343	30376	0.800	0.830	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	128211	84552	0.650	0.660	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	147725	62126	0.440	0.430	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	150	93	0.650	0.620	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	118150	21262	0.680	0.680	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajeroo	4050	1094	0.780	0.770	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	2539	4364	1.690	1.730	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	8800	5482	0.600	0.630	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	120	276	2.300	2.300	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	5000	4000	0.800	0.800	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	1020	4692	4.600	4.600	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	9320	8711	0.940	0.930	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	1000	1900	1.900	1.900	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	88182	52569	0.560	0.610	1.000
Jordan Dairy	7459	7608	1.020	1.020	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	4965	11459	2.340	2.300	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	668180	1075591	1.510	1.630	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	2193	8022	3.650	3.730	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Imaj)	68663	104398	1.520	1.530	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	700	3010	4.400	4.300	1.000
Jordan Fertilizer for Agricultural Production	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	321860	519211	1.570	1.670	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	44844	91974	2.030	2.070	1.000
Jordan Worsted Mills	300	1500	5.000	5.000	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	11120	18835	1.660	1.670	1.000
Chemical Industries	44975	118940	2.580	2.700	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	38530	26445	0.670	0.690	1.000
Petra Al Fawar for Agricultural Production	10425	23122	2.210	2.230	1.000
National Steel Industries	17700	51633	2.920	2.960	1.000
General Chemical Industries	125890	383819	3.020	3.030	1.000
Universal Mining	1000	1500	1.450	1.500	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	1594	13801	8.630	8.700	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	586540	135532	0.200	0.230	1.000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Paper Conversion and Trading	13696	4903	0.340	0.360	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	40366	37814	0.930	0.810	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	15073	23222	1.570	1.540	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	17424	26374	1.530	1.530	1.000
Rafsa Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	787366	775547	0.930	1.040	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	400	300	0.750	0.750	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	2920	2482	0.860	0.850	1.000
Jordan Tanning	385	828	2.150	2.150	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	2.000
Mass Industries	—	—	—	—	1.080
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	657096	836635	1.210	1.290	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	21568	20598	0.960	0.960	0.680
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	42556	121427	2.740	2.870	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	80159	101132	1.260	1.240	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	26952	27093	1.000	1.010	1.000
Grand total	5,014,677	6,428,134			

Super bowl coach plays at underdog

MIAMI (R) — Cincinnati Bengals head coach Sam Wyche took pains Friday not to say anything inflammatory that might give the San Francisco 49ers extra incentive in Sunday's Super Bowl showdown.

"We really don't have a chance to win this," he told reporters, a slight smile spreading across his face.

In fact, Wyche went to such lengths to tell the 49ers into overconfidence that it was a good thing none of his own players were at the morning news conference to hear him say they didn't have a chance.

"You've got to have two sides. They've already sold the ads and the TV people are in place, so we're going to play the game," Wyche joked.

He appeared serious when he said San Francisco's experience in winning two Super Bowls in the past seven years gives the 49ers an edge.

"They ought to be the favorites," Wyche said of the National Conference champion 49ers, who are tipped to win Super Bowl XXIII by a touchdown.

"They outmatch us in virtually every category starting with the head coach. They have the edge by a long shot on that," he said referring to his mentor, San Francisco head coach, Bill Walsh.

Cincinnati has the number one offense in the National Football League and a better regular season record — 12-4 to San Francisco's 10-6 — but Wyche was relishing his team's role as underdogs.

"This is the classic... confrontation. There's Goliath and here, come the little Davids. We've got our sling stones. We're looking for their vulnerable spots

and we're going to play like crazy," Wyche said.

The Cincinnati coach continued to pay homage to Walsh, who gave Wyche his first coaching job.

"I owe a lot of the things that are happening to me now to Bill. Bill has added an intellectual aspect and artistry to the game. I respect him a lot, but I'm going to go out and try to kick his butt Sunday."

As if he had let his true combative feelings about the Bengals' chances slip out for a minute, Wyche went right back to praising the opposition.

"We're a good running team, they're a better running team. We're good tackling team, they're a better tackling team."

"They'll be the guys in the big armor. We'll be the guys in the sandals and leather wraps. But I'll promise you this, it's going to be a heck of a football game."

Walsh, no stranger to pre-game mind games, laughed when told his good friend and now rival said the Bengals had virtually no chance to win.

"I hate to see Sam take that kind of attitude going into a big game," Walsh said. "Maybe I ought to call him and pep him up."

The Ickey shuffle

On Super Bowl Sunday viewers from some 42 nations will likely get their first glimpse of the Ickey shuffle — the dance step that may replace Michael Jackson's moonwalk in American pop-culture.

The joyous post-touchdown celebration dance performed by Cincinnati Bengals rookie running sensation Ickey Woods is sweeping the nation and should be score on Sunday they could be doing the Ickey shuffle from Australia to Yugoslavia.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIFF
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A CALCULATED RISK

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 4 2
♥ A J 6
♦ A K Q
♣ K J 10 4

EAST
♠ 9 8 6 5
♥ K 4 1
♦ J 10 9 8 3
♣ 9 8 5

SOUTH
♠ J 10 3
♥ Q 10 9 8 7 5 3
♦ 5
♣ A 7

The bidding:
South West North East
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

If you open any beginner's bridge book, you'll find it contains a table of opening leads. These standard leads will keep you on the right track most of the time, but slavishly following them can prove costly—as this hand proves.

At both tables in a team match, the first contract was four hearts, reached in an identical manner.

Next, declarer led his 10 high-card spade. North did not even think of slant opposite his partner's pre-

empt. He knew his side was off at least one card, and there had to be another loser somewhere.

At one table West made the daring opening lead of the king of spades. That did not figure to cost. If either opponent held the ace, it figured to be North. The lead would blow a trick only in the event that North held the ace. East the jack and South the queen. And it stood to reap a huge dividend if East held the ace.

When the king won, it was a simple matter for West to continue with a spade to East's ace, and ruff the continuation. He then exited with the four of hearts. Declarer stared at that card suspiciously, but finally elected to go with the percentage play of a 2-1 break by ruffing with the ace—down one.

At the other table West made the "safe" lead of the jack of diamonds. Declarer won and cashed the remaining diamond winners for two spade discards. He returned to hand with the ace of clubs and ran the ten of hearts. Next came a heart to the jack, the king of clubs and then the jack. Since it would not help to cover with the queen, East played low. Declarer discarded his remaining spade, and so made all the tricks!

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Obscene baseball cards

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore Oriole Billy Ripken says he's embarrassed that an obscenity appeared on his bat on a new baseball card, and thinks it may have been a prank by teammates. The baseball card company, Fleer Corp., hastily rubbed out the words, which were discovered Tuesday, about two weeks after the start of distribution of the 1989 cards. Phil Perry, owner of Phil Perry's baseball card exchange in Baltimore, said he believed only 100 or so cards reached Maryland — 18 of which are in his possession. "It (the obscenity) is clear. It's very, very sharp," he said. "I've already been offered \$20 a card."

Libya concedes World Cup match in Algeria

TUNIS (R) — Libya conceded a World Cup qualifying round match to Algeria Friday, saying the two teams were really one and should not compete. A statement by the Libyan Football Federation, broadcast on Libyan radio, said it took the decision in the framework of the unilateral plan between Libya and Algeria and in appreciation of Algerian support for Libya against United States aggression. "This stems from our firm belief that the green Jamahiri (Libyan) team and the Algerian team are in fact one team and there is no conventional competition between them," it added. Algeria radio reported earlier that Libya had postponed the match, scheduled for Friday in Tripoli, because it thought the pitch was too close for safety to its controversial factory at Rabta.

Malta wants to erase memories of 12-1 thrashing

VALLETTA (R) — Malta hope to erase memories of their humiliating 12-1 defeat by Spain four years ago when the two teams meet on Sunday in a World Cup, European group six, qualifying soccer match. Malta have improved immensely since that dark day in Seville when they were run off the field in the qualifying round for the 1986 World Cup, and last month they held Hungary to a 2-2 draw. Malta's West German manager Horst Hesse thinks his squad can contain the Spaniards at Valletta's Ta' Qauli stadium. Hesse is expected to pack the defence and rely on the opportunism of Carmel Busuttil, who plays for Belgian first division side Ghent. Busuttil scored eight international goals last year.

Kenyan banned for playing S. African

NAIROBI (R) — Kenyan Paul Wekesa was banned on Friday from playing for or in his country for an indefinite period after playing in a doubles match against a South African pair. Kenya National Sports Council Chairman Charles Mukora said the ban, the second in nine months, was for an indefinite period. The 21-year-old Kenyan was suspended last April for defying his country's ban on sporting links with the racially-segregated republic. Wekesa, a student in the United States and the first Kenyan to turn professional, played in a men's doubles match against a South African pair in the Australian Open Thursday.

The Duchesnays' new routine is a surprise

BRIMMINGHAM (AP) — After Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay's wildly, creative jungle dance last year, people are wondering what they'll do for an encore at this year's world figure skating championship.

The curious will have to wait a while longer.

The French-Canadian brother-sister team made an appearance at the European championships Friday. But it was a non-skating one, as Isabelle is recovering from two operations that are healing slowly and forced the couple to bypass Birmingham.

In their absence, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko led a Soviet sweep of the medals. Klimova and Ponomarenko received two 6.0s for an entertaining, but conventional routine to music from "The Three Penny Opera."

Maia Usova, whose dress for the compulsory routine was severely criticised by a British official for being too revealing, and Aleksandr Zhulin also received a 6.0 in coming in second and taking the silver medal. Natalia Annetko and Genrikh Sretenski were third.

Last year, the Duchesnays came in third at the European championship, where they introduced their unconventional jungle routine that created a sensation with its different steps, gestures and outfits.

This year, they did not get a chance to compete. So everyone will have to wait for the world championships two months from now.

Now for the unveiling of their new creation, choreographed by Christopher Dean with assistance by Jayne Torvill, the British pair who dominated ice-dancing in the early 1980s.

Torvill and Dean were responsible for the sudden popularity of ice dancing with their innovative routines on ice such as "Barnum" and "Bolero."

"We have had quite a few people ask 'what are you doing, what are your costumes, what are your themes,'" Isabelle said.

"They put down the steps and show us the direction to do," Isabelle said of Torvill and Dean. "We worked with them about a month in Oberstdorf (West Germany)."

That's where the Duchesnays have been training, away from the news media attention they drew last season when their jungle dance and leather-like costumes — created a stir at the Winter Olympics, European and World championships.

"It puts a lot of pressure on us," Paul said. "The new routine is totally different from last year. Hopefully people will like it and are really looking forward to it."

The innovative steps and gestures choreographed by Dean caused different reactions. The judges placed them eighth at the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada, but the audience went wild.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By the Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is a great day to contact that special person in your dreams. Sensual feelings may be strong and hard to control. Physical energy is high, so do something exciting that will use this strength to advantage.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Use restraint and avoid flying off the handle over another person's rudeness. Consider the source and let the matter die.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Scrutinize documents and legal papers carefully before signing. Stay away from credit cards and shopping binges.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Keep yourself busy and catch up on chores early. Surprises come your way and free time is needed to take part in latter day activities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) The range of financial possibility is limitless if you stop worrying and make sound choices. Trust fate and your own abilities.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Minor irritations get the day off to a bum start. A short trip, with some adventure thrown in, will turn the day around.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Unusual flare-ups around the house will ease later in the day. Contact distant family members for some good news.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your workaholic approach needs to be tempered. Re-arrange time

schedules to include interesting activities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Seek out some privacy for yourself and channel intense feelings into worthwhile projects. Avoid people who aggravate you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Use diversified activities to keep youngsters out of your hair. Relieve cabin fever by getting out of the house.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Laying down the law over household duties may not work to your advantage today. A long walk with nature will help you to relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Give plenty of thought to home and domestic matters. Be patient with a handyman project that may not run as expected.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) This is a good day to be assertive and lead the way. Use the current situation to solidify a romantic interest or new admirer.

If Your Child Is Born Today He or she will have an upbeat personality that will carry into leadership roles at an early age. Life will be colorful with many intimate contacts. Don't expect this youngster to stay close to home, for independence and variety will be important.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

© 1989, McNaught Synd.

English League football

Arsenal keeps lead with draw

LONDON (R) — Paul Merson spared Arsenal's blushes with a 74th minute equaliser to earn the English first division leaders a 1-1 draw with struggling Sheffield Wednesday Saturday.

Arsenal looked like paying a heavy price for a crop of missed chances when Imre Varadi scored from Wednesday's first threatening attack on the hour.

But Merson stretched the Gunners' lead over second-placed Norwich, who meet Millwall in a televised match Sunday, to six points with his 10th goal in 13 matches.

While Norwich head the chasing pack, Arsenal would not have been pleased to learn that as they were scoring chances at Highbury, defending champions Liverpool were cruising to a 2-0 win over Southampton.

John Aldridge and Ian Rush scored the goals in a four-minute spell in the second half and they now trail Arsenal by nine points.

Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough, on his best behaviour after his televised attack on supporters who invaded the club's pitch after Forest's League Cup win over Queens' Park Rangers Wednesday, was given an emotional show of support by fans before the home match against Aston Villa.

Thousands of fans in the main stand at the city ground stood and clapped their hands above their heads as Clough, who is to be questioned by police about his actions, walked to the touchline dugout.

The Forest players also showed their support for Clough with a rousing display. The highlight of their 4-0 win — their seventh in succession — was an 87th minute goal by full back Brian Laws, his first for the club.

Becker wins his quickest match

Players' circuit under fire

(R) — Martina Navratilova accused the men's Professional Tennis Association (ATP) of being greedy and inconsiderate Saturday following publication of its plans for a breakaway tour in 1990.

"It seems the top (male) players did not have much say about what was going on but I find it pretty disappointing that they just went with the almighty buck."

"To have the Masters and the Slams championship in the same week even though they may be in different continents is pretty silly. I don't see any reason for it," said Navratilova, a director of the women's international tennis association (WITA).

"We tried to talk to the ATP but they just said 'well this is what we are doing — tough.' Earlier John McEnroe launched a broadside against the ATP."

Graf warns to the Australians

(AP) — Gabriela Sabatini is used to being adored by fans at home in Argentina while Steffi Graf sometimes has a cool relationship with spectators in West Germany, but the two stars of women's tennis have been greeted with nothing short of adulation in Melbourne.

"The crowds here have been amazing," Graf said Friday after her third round singles win over American Marianne Werdel. "They are just so enthusiastic. I have never experienced that sort of enthusiasm — even at home in West Germany."

Melbourne (AP) — Boris Becker blasted unseeded Canadian Chris Pridham 6-0, 6-1, 6-2 Saturday to reach the fourth round of the \$2.4-million Australian Open tennis championship.

Becker, a two-time Wimbledon champion seeded third for the first Grand Slam tournament of the year, took just 70 minutes to demolish his outclassed opponent.

The West German served and volleyed with clinical precision and returned serve superbly. He served 18 aces and won 97 per cent of points on successful first serves.

Becker, 21, ranked fourth in the world, showed no mercy on Pridham, ranked 208th.

"I can't ever remember playing a faster match than that," Becker said. "I don't think any Grand Slam match is easy. He (Pridham) reached the third round here, so he must have played good tennis. But it was his first time on centre court so maybe he was nervous."

Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, the ninth seed, and 14th-seeded Jonas Svensson of Sweden won third-round men's singles matches to advance to the last 16.

But 12th-seeded Swede Mikael Pernfors was surprised by big-serving Dutchman Michiel Schapers, who ousted Boris Becker from the same tournament three years ago. Schapers triumphed 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0 after Pernfors was bothered by a neck injury he suffered in the third-set tiebreaker.

"I couldn't move my neck," Pernfors said. "It got suffer and stiffer."

Mecir beat Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 and enjoyed playing on centre court.

"There is less wind and it is less disturbing than the outside courts," said the Czech, the only seed left in the top quarter of the men's draw.

"There have been lots of upsets," he said. "But every match is difficult."

Mecir now plays South African Christo Van Rensburg, an amateur magician who made Australian Mark Woodford disappear from the tournament with a 2-6, 6-2, (7-9), 6-4, 6-0 win.

"I was in a good... frame of mind out there," said Van Rensburg, who is scheduled to show off his magic tricks on a weekend Australian television show.

Meanwhile in the women's competition Martina Navratilova, relishing her role as a tournament underdog, breezed past Czech player Jana Novotna 6-2, 6-2 Saturday to advance to the fourth round of the \$2.4-million Australian Open tennis championships.

Navratilova, a three-time winner of the tournament, took just 53 minutes to steamroll doubles specialist Novotna. The tournament's no. 2 seed behind Grand Slam winner Steffi Graf of West Germany, Navratilova said she was enjoying having the news media's attention focused on Graf and no. 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and away from her.

"I don't mind being underdog," she said. "The fact is I am number two. Steffi won everything last year."

"I've been a big favourite before and a big underdog. I've won both ways and lost both ways. But I'm enjoying myself here."

The Czech-born left-hander broke Novotna's serve in the second and eighth games of each set. Novotna found Navratilova's swinging serve hard to handle.

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"I was in a good... frame of mind out there," said Van Rensburg, who is scheduled to show off his magic tricks on a weekend Australian television show.

Meanwhile in the women's competition Martina Navratilova, relishing her role as a tournament underdog, breezed past Czech player Jana Novotna 6-2, 6-2 Saturday to advance to the fourth round of the \$2.4-million Australian Open tennis championships.

Navratilova, a three-time winner of the tournament, took just 53 minutes to steamroll doubles specialist Novotna. The tournament's no. 2 seed behind Grand Slam winner Steffi Graf of West Germany, Navratilova said she was enjoying having the news media's attention focused on Graf and no. 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and away from her.

"I don't mind being underdog," she said. "The fact is I am number two. Steffi won everything last year."

"I've been a big favourite before and a big underdog. I've won both ways and lost both ways. But I'm enjoying myself here."

The Czech-born left-hander broke Novotna's serve in the second and eighth games of each set. Novotna found Navratilova's swinging serve hard to handle.



Miami police cock their weapons during a six-hour riot in the city's predominantly black neighbourhood of Overtown last Monday. The rioting, which left cars and several buildings ablaze, began after a white police officer fatally shot a black motorcyclist during a

high-speed chase through the area. The shooting happened only hours after thousands marched in the streets of nearby Liberty City to celebrate the birthday of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Junior.

King's daughter calls for peace in Miami

MIAMI (R) — The daughter of assassinated civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. invoked the memory of her father when she appealed Friday for calm in two of Miami's black neighbourhoods.

"The reality is that violence is not the answer," Yolanda King told a meeting of black leaders. But King, 33, said the underlying problems that fuelled the unrest had to be addressed by city officials.

Black leaders said the only way to defuse tensions was for the city to give top priority to easing poverty, joblessness, housing problems and rampant crime in the black community.

The city was quiet Thursday night for the first time since Monday, when the killing of an unarmed black motorcyclist by a white policeman touched off disturbances that left one person dead, 400 arrested and damage estimated at \$1 million.

Japan offers to hold talks with N. Korea

TOKYO (AP) — Japan Friday offered to hold talks with North Korea on any issue in order to normalise relations with the communist nation.

"We are prepared to enter into any discussions of any type with North Korea on the entire range of pending (bilateral) issues, with no preconditions whatsoever," Hitoshi Tanaka, director of the Foreign Ministry's Northeast Asia Division, said in releasing a policy paper.

Tanaka, whose department oversees Korean affairs, said the government released the policy outline "due to the delicacy of the situation on the Korean peninsula."

South and North Korea have recently exchanged a flurry of proposals — heralding the first major peace initiative aimed at ending four decades of confrontation.

The Japanese government's policy statement came just one day before the scheduled arrival of a four-member delegation from North Korea's workers' party — the first of its kind sent by the ruling party. It also addressed issues brought up in a North Korean report Jan. 12 that denounced Japan's hostile attitude toward Pyongyang and demanded apology for "past crimes."

"Japan has no intention of supporting the perpetuation of division desired by neither North nor South," the Japan statement said. "Japan does not maintain hostile policy toward North Korea, and we recognise that it will be appropriate... for us to move positively toward improved relations between Japan and North Korea."

After Japan's defeat in 1945, Korea was split at the 38th parallel. The bloody 1950-53 Korean war further divided North and South Korea and the two countries have yet to sign a peace treaty ending hostilities.

In its policy statement, Japan also apologised for "past crimes," alluding to its cruel colonisation of Korea up to and during World War II.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Belgian police fear ex-premier dead

BRUSSELS (AP) — Six days after he disappeared, police said Friday they doubted former Prime Minister Paul van den Boeynants has been kidnapped, implying they increasingly feared he had been killed. "I must conclude that we have no proof that a movement or people that have made themselves known have indeed kidnapped Mr. Van den Boeynants," Andre van Doren, the chief investigator, told reporters Friday. Pressed by reporters to say whether he believed the missing politician had been killed, van Doren said: "Murder was among the possibilities from the start, but I must say it is now gaining ground."

Soviet rocket lights up U.S. skies

NEW YORK (AP) — A fireball that blazed across the night skies of the central United States Friday was a Soviet rocket body launched in December and re-entering the atmosphere, authorities said. Military bureaus and other U.S. agencies including the National Weather Service were swamped by calls from the Midwest and the southwest, officials said. "It just appeared all of a sudden out of the south and fell straight down north and it left a line just as straight as could be," Robin England of Abilene, Texas, told one newspaper, the Abilene Reporter-News.

Bundy confesses

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Condemned murderer Ted Bundy began confessing Friday to the murders of about 30 women in five Western states, a newspaper reported, and the Florida Supreme Court refused to block his execution. The 42-year-old former law student, whose case was depicted in a U.S. television miniseries, is scheduled to die in the electric chair Tuesday for the Feb. 9, 1978, murder of Kimberly Leach, a 12-year-old Florida girl. Volusia state attorney John Tanner, a friend of Bundy, told the Orlando Sentinel Friday night that he learned of the confessions from law enforcement agents at Florida state prison near Starke, the newspaper said Saturday.

'Sihanouk should lead government'

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (AP) — Foreign ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) said Saturday that former Kampuchean head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk should lead any future government in Kampuchea. "The foreign ministers" reaffirmed their view on a future government in (Kampuchea) that is sovereign, independent, neutral and non-aligned under the leadership of his royal highness, Prince Norodom Sihanouk," said the joint statement. The statement was issued after a one-day meeting of foreign ministers from the association's six member states — Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore.

Burma fighting spills into Thailand

TAK, Thailand (AP) — Mortar shells from fighting between government troops and rebel forces inside Burma fell over the border in neighbouring Thailand, destroying 55 houses and wounding two villagers inside Thailand, an official said Saturday. Colonel Amphol Ngamchit, police chief of Tak province, said a woman and a young girl were wounded when the shells hit Friday in Mae Salit village, which straddles the border with Burma. Damage was estimated at the equivalent of more than \$500,000. The fighting was part of an intensified campaign by the Burmese military against the Karen National Union, one of a dozen ethnic minority organisations fighting the central government.

Rights court rules against Honduras

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — The Inter-American Court on Human Rights Friday declared that Honduras has violated the human rights of a Honduran man who reportedly disappeared five years ago. In a second, unrelated case, the San Jose-based court also ordered the Honduran government to exhumate and identify the body of a man believed to be a Costa Rican man killed for unknown reasons in Honduran territory during a December 1981 vacation. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is made up of seven international jurists.

Solidarity leaders discuss Communist Party's proposal

GDANSK, Poland (AP) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa Saturday called a meeting of the union's national executive commission to discuss a Communist Party offer to legalise the banned independent trade union.

Walesa earlier attended a rally by about 4,000 workers inside the Lenin shipyard, the birthplace of Solidarity in 1980, but left the speaking to the leaders of the yard's union committee.

He summoned the commission to Gdansk to formulate a response to a Communist Party position paper announced Thursday that would legalise Solidarity under certain conditions. The union has been banned since 1982.

The commission's 20 members and 10 advisers and local Solidarity activists met at Saint Mary's Basilica, several blocks from the shipyard, then moved to a more private meeting place at a convent near the city's old town.

Addressing skeptical workers at the Lenin shipyard during a meeting Friday, Walesa said he also had doubts about the authorities' intentions.

"I don't trust them either," Walesa said in answer to a questioner who accused Polish authorities of lying to workers.

"But if someone gives a chance for pluralism, I take the chance," he said. A tape recording of the closed meeting was obtained by the AP.

Nicaragua, Panama celebrate Reagan's White House departure

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The leftist government threw a giant party with dancing in the streets to celebrate the end of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's eight years in power.

People dressed up Friday as former President Reagan, Uncle Sam and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, a strong critic of the leftist Sandinista government. One float showed Uncle Sam throwing dollars at the anti-Sandinista rebels known as the contras.

A huge plaza was cordoned off for dancing.

Elsewhere in Central America, meanwhile, Panamanians, led by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, also celebrated Reagan's departure, shooting

come only after Saturday's meeting of the executive commission, which has a membership of about 20 regional leaders.

In the past, the commission has followed the recommendation of Walesa, its chairman.

During a wave of strikes in August, the government proposed formal talks that would include Walesa, authorities, the official trade unions and other social groups. After a series of preliminary talks, Walesa refused the invitation until he got a "political decision" from the party to legalise the union again.

This week's Communist Party plenum seems to have satisfied that demand, said Adam Michnik, a senior advisor to Walesa.

Walesa told reporters that he must bargain with authorities because the country's problems are so daunting.

"I will reach toward agreement," he said. "I don't know if I will make it, but I will try. I want to take advantage of all chances for agreement for Poland because we need it so badly."

He referred to the disillusionment of young people and other problems that he said have cropped up in the seven years since the banning of Solidarity in a martial-law crackdown. And he said an accord this time would be "more difficult" than in 1980.

Astrologer reads Bush's stars

WASHINGTON (R) — Nancy Reagan's favourite astrologer has some advice for George Bush: Beware the sun in Gemini, and never leave home without the secret service. Joan Quigley, a San Francisco astrologer Mrs. Reagan consulted from the White House, gave a detailed reading of the President's chart in an article published in Friday's Washington Post. She said the stars show Bush could face an assassination attempt. "Bush is only the second U.S. president to have his sun in Gemini," she wrote. "The other was John F. Kennedy... in the United States' July 4, 1776 birthday chart with Gemini rising, Mars, which has to do with assassinations among other things, is on Bush's sun, so his protectors must be tirelessly vigilant. He himself cannot be too careful."

Reagan beats death jinx

WASHINGTON (R) — Ronald Reagan beat the death jinx Friday. When George Bush has sworn into office, ex-President Reagan broke an eerie pattern of fatality that had haunted the White House since William Henry Harrison became chief executive in 1840. From that day to this, every U.S. president elected in a year ending in zero had died in office. Harrison, a macho Indian-fighting soldier, started matters by shivering through a cold, rainy inaugural ceremony coatless and bareheaded and delivering a one-hour 45-minute speech. His was the longest inaugural address and the shortest presidency. He died of pneumonia one month later April 4, 1841. Thereafter the death jinx held at 20-year intervals.

Parade alarm as hot dogs overheat

WASHINGTON (R) — A sudden blaze raised a brief alarm alongside President Bush's inaugural parade Friday, but the incident turned out to be just a spectacular case of char-broiled hot dogs. Two hot-dog vending carts on a truck parked about half a block from the parade route caught fire well before Bush had reached the area.

THE Sunday Crossword

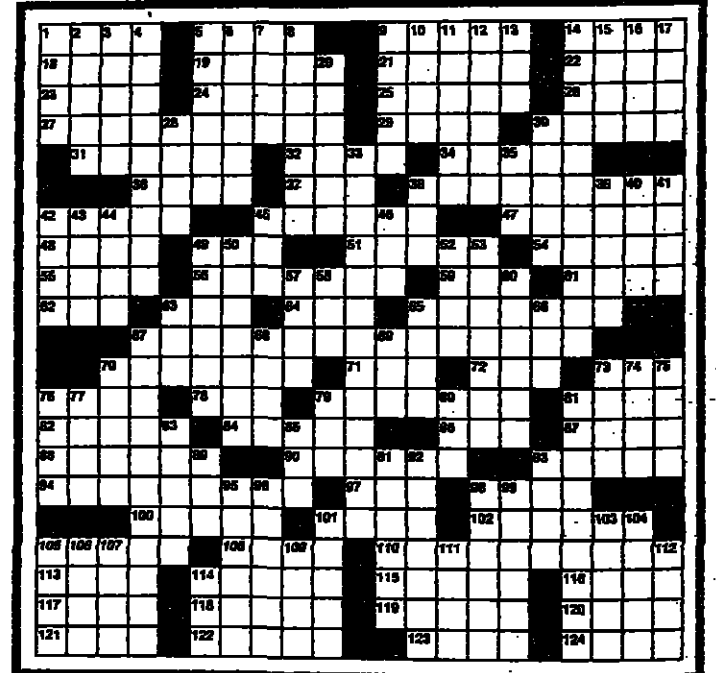
Edited by Herb Etkens

IT TAKES ALL KINDS

By Olive Dean

- ACROSS
1. Person
2. Can play
3. Coconut meat
4. Musical instrument
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Last Week's Cryptograms

- By way of proof that Murphy was surely an optimist: if there is something that can't possibly go wrong, it certainly will.
- Alcohol's vile use tarnished good error's once silver tongue.
- Look garden with birdbath, meet and seed beakless flocks of wild songsters.
- Lazy Eskimo hunter stalked wily walrus in his motorized kayak.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JOXC LIRMO AVC TQLXZ PIRMO YIM, QL AYE
TX VMIIY CXJZ ZLIPB, TEL QLZ VWZI
LVZLWXZZ
—By Corinne Miller
2. ELWJ EYTHREOCW CKH YKLEHJ EPKTE
LA JCAT CDRH DCYR EBHCT.
—By Earl Ireland
3. WRONG SONG: WRY ART, WRTSM, UMI
NTYWE'I KOPY IT KSTWY RYP ALENTA
USLENW.
—Leif H. Jones
4. BUS TRACZ ZIBLIC ZUB RA KZPSKTIM
BPCC STOPZ GUDTIM LGSBS LSZD.
—By Ed Etkens

